CIRCULATION LAST WEEK
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Poetry.

GRANDMA'S FIRESIDE SERMON.

The supper is over; the hearth is swept;
And in the wood fire's glow
The children cluster to hear a tale
Of that time so long ago.

"Life is a stocking," grandma says,
"And yours is just begun,
But I am knitting the toe of mine,
And my work is almost done.

"With merry hearts we begin to knit,
And the ribbing is almost plain;
Some are gay-colored and some are white,
And some are ashen gray.

"But most are made of many a hue,
With many a stitch set wrong,
And many a row to be sadly ripped
Ere the whole be fair and strong.

"There are long plain spaces without a break
That in youth is hard to bear,
And many a weary tear is dropped
As we fashion the heel with care.

"But the saddest, happiest time is that
We court and yet would shun,
When our heavenly father breaks the thread
And says that our work is done."

The children come to say "Good-night,"
With tears in their bright young eyes,
While in grandma's lap, with broken thread,
The finished stocking lies.

—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

A LITTLE BROTHER OF THE FIELDS

Who's roistering down the orchard
There where the clover thins?
Some rascal's deep in liquor
And chuckling o'er his sins.

Hark! where the hedge rose blushes
Dost hear the cannikin clink?
Dost hear the flagon's gurgling:
"Bubble-link—bubble-ling—bubble-link?"

Nay, Gossip—thou misjudgest—
Look! where the grass tilts down,
In pilgrim cowl and cassock,
With legs o' buskined brown!

Odds, faith! That scamp a pilgrim?
Then joy doth trudge with him,
And all the beads he telleth
Slip at the beaker's brim.

An "Ave" would'st thou name it,
His maudlin, juggling tune?—
He's cupiled every bowl he
That e'er was flasked in June!

The ranty Roister Doister,
Misgrace to cowl and cope—
Ah, list—had I his tipple,
I would not be the pope!

—Ednah Proctor Clarke in Harper's Magazine.

A GAME SHE KNOWS.

When Bertha gets the checkers out
And lays them for a social game,
She'll improvise, beyond a doubt,
Some rules to regulate the same.
For Bertha cannot bear to always lose,
Yet cannot hope to always win,
Save by a system that pursues
A plan bewildering as sin.

Full well, indeed, this game she plays,
And many players fall before her;
Some conquered by her skillful ways
And some because—they half adore her.
If chance she makes a hapless move
She'll "take it back" to dodge disaster,
And lift appealing eyes to prove
That in such winning ways she's master.

Then when the final move draws near,
And dire defeat she can surmise,
Her hands will shield the board in fear,
And she will vanquish with her sighs.
Thus Bertha plays the game of draughts,
Nor needs the science of the wise;
In this, as in some sweeter crafts,
She conquers by her wits—and eyes!

Miscellany.

BACK TO THE CHIGNON.

Fashion of Wearing Hair in Nets May Become Popular Again.

A recent London dispatch says there is a marked change in the prevailing style of fashionable hairdressing, which shows an inclination to return to the chignon.

Several women have been seen in Upper Broadway, New York, recently, with their hair in nets. The arrangement was much like the old-fashioned chignon.

Chignons were worn almost universally at about the time of the war of the rebellion. Nobody has ever been known to assert that they were beautiful.

The real chignon is made by rolling the hair into a large, unpleasant bunch, which then is surrounded by a net. This makes the entire mess look like the braided rope fenders worn by tug boats.

An inducement offered by the chignon is

AGAIN THE CHIGNON.

that one can wear somebody else's hair if one lacks enough of the real article.

The fact that it is an exceptionally ugly fashion probably will insure its popularity.

In the old chignon days women often carried in their nets enough false hair to stuff a sofa, and enough wire, etc., in the shape of crinolines to furnish a junk shop. They thought that was nice.

ONLY A POTATO.

Astonishing things in politics and potatoes are produced in this country. Here is a sweet potato, grown on the farm of F. A. Whitaker, near Elkton, Md. This potato bore a startling likeness to a venomous, powerful snake, twisted as if in the act of striking.

NOT A SNAKE.

The owner stuck two bright-headed pins in it for eyes, and the potato looks ready to spring into your face. It is curled up in such fashion that, like a snake, it is hard to trace its body along from head to tail.

His Own Handicap.

"Why do you think Baxter will never get to the top?"

"He's such a slippery chap."—Chicago News.

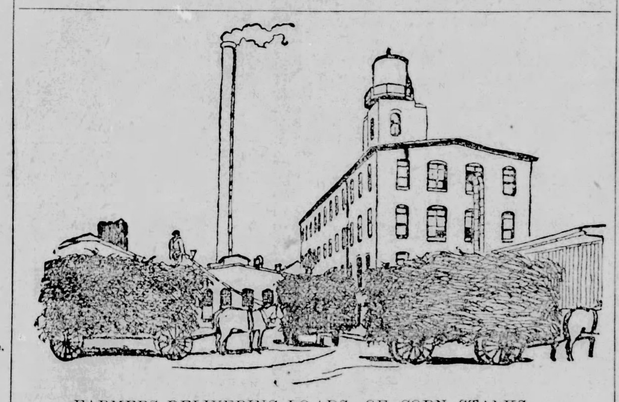
MILLIONS IN CORN PITH

USE DISCOVERED FOR A WASTE PRODUCT IN MAKING CELLULOSE.

Will Line the Battleships of the World—Ten Factories in the Ohio Valley.

The corn acreage of the United States for the season of 1897 was about 80,000,000. Each acre yields on an average about 4,000 pounds of corn stalks, or a total of 160,000,000 tons. Of this weight 85 per cent, or 136,000,000 tons, was valuable as feed for live stock, but it is not likely more than 10 per cent of it, or 13,000,000 tons, was actually fed.

The other 15 per cent of the total weight, or 24,000,000 tons, was the pith of the stalk. This pith has been a total waste, or even worse, for its indigestibility lowers the value of the stalk as cattle feed. It has recently been discovered that this pith is extremely valuable for many purposes. Machinery has been invented to separate the pith from the



FARMERS DELIVERING LOADS OF CORN STALKS.

stalk. Where factories have been established they are paying the farmers $3 a ton for stalks, selling the fodder part for $6 a ton and the pith for 17½ cents a pound, or $350 a ton.

That is to say, if every ton of stalks raised in the United States could be so treated this discovery of the value of the pith would add $480,000,000 to the value of the corn crop of the United States to the farmers, minus its present value for feed in the raw state. These figures are theoretical and may never be attained. There is little question, however, but that the discovery ranks as one of the greatest in the economies of an age of utilization, for not only is this value added to the corn crop, but a raw material is placed upon the market which injures no other industry and promises employment for many thousands of people in every variety of manufacture.

What is called cocoa cellulose, made from the shells of cocoa nuts, has been in use for a number of years for various purposes. It costs $500 a ton, however, and the supply was limited and threatened with stoppage at any time. Its principal use has been as a lining for war vessels, and an excellent illustration of its value was offered the naval world in the war between China and Japan. At the battle of Yalu the Chinese cruisers Tschi-Yuen and King-Yuen were struck near the water line above the armored decks and immediately capsized, owing to the rush of the water into the air space between the inner and outer walls of the vessel.

In the same battle were the Japanese ships Itsukushima and Matsushima. These vessels had their corresponding air spaces filled with cocoa cellulose. They were hit in the same place as the Chinese vessels, but the cellulose immediately closed the holes made by the shells and the ships were thereby able to remain indefinitely in action.

The invention of machinery to separate the pith from the corn stalk was due to Mark W. Marsden, of Pittsburg. The Marsden company owns 40 or more patents covering its machines, and it is backed financially by the Cramps, the great shipbuilders. The United States has formally adopted corn pith cellulose as a lining for its battle ships and the Kentucky and Kearsarge and the unnamed war vessels now under way known as Nos. 7, 8 and 9, will be lined with it.

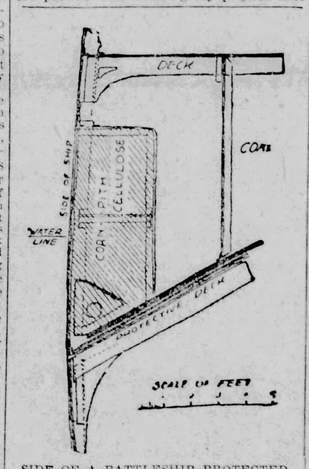
Process of Manufacture.

At Owensboro, Ky., is located the company's first and largest plant. It covers about four acres of ground. It was located at Owensboro by reason of the needed corn land thereabouts, rail and river transportation and central location for the Eastern trade. The people of Owensboro offered the company $6,000 as a bonus, which was politely refused. The factory employs at present about 200 men, but many of these are now on construction work and experimenting, and it is claimed this plant can be operated with seventy-five men when all the machinery for handling the raw and finished product is completed. The farmers bring in the cornstalks and they are stacked near the cutting building. Only last year's stalks are now being used, as this year's crop will not be dry enough to work until January or February of next year. The company is buying as fast as the stalks are brought in, however, intending to secure the 30,000 tons necessary to run the factory until the next crop is ready.

When the farmer arrives with his wagon load he drives upon the scales and receives three dollars in cash for each ton he delivers. Some of the corn land in the Ohio bottoms is yielding as high as $10 an acre in stalks, and Senator Fairbanks, of Indiana, himself a farmer, says that every acre of corn land within reach of one of these factories is increased fully 20 per cent in value by the market thus afforded for what has hitherto gone to waste.

After the stalks are stacked they go through a sweat and they dry out. The time for this process depends of course upon the weather and the condition of the stalks, but takes from three to four weeks. They are then fed into a cutting machine, and there cut into pieces about an inch in length, after which they fall into the receiver of a pneumatic conveyor which consists of a system of galvanized piping of the size of ordinary stove piping, through which a strong current of air is forced by centrifugal fans. The air blast in the pneumatic conveyor separates the leaves and lighter parts and blows them up through one branch pipe to one loft, while the heavier pieces of stalks pass through another pipe to a second loft and are blown through a grating to remove any remaining leaves. The cut stalks are then fed into another branch of the conveyor and are carried to a larger hopper, whence they pass into an attrition mill, which cracks the shell and releases the pith and its fibre.

This whole disintegrated mass then passes into a large rectangular box with conical ends at top and bottom, into



SIDE OF A BATTLESHIP PROTECTED WITH CELLULOSE.

which ends lead pipes of another pneumatic conveyor. The box is called the "cyclone," the strong currents of air within being so directed as to blow the pith and its fibre upward, and the pieces of the shell of the stalk downward, where the latter are ground and reground with the leaves as feed for cattle.

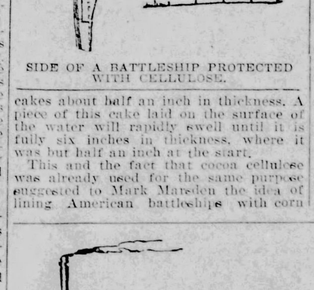
The pith and fibre, blown upward, pass into a double concentric cylindrical screen which revolving slowly in an air-tight compartment sifts out all the dust. Then there remains only the coarse cellulose and its fibre and the fine cellulose, which is like flour, and these are again separated by air blast and fall in different compartments.

The stalk part is conveyed to another building, where it is put up in sacks of 200 pounds each and sold for cattle feed. These sacks are about the size of a 100-pound sack of bran. The cellulose or pith passes to other floors of the same building and is also sacked, but in 50 pound bundles. It is so light that a 50-pound sack is about the size of a sack of wool, say seven feet long and eight or nine feet in circumference.

The New Product.

Cellulose, or corn pith, as it comes from the machine ready for export, looks just as it does when taken from the center of the corn stalk by hand. It hardly seems possible it has gone through any such process as involves the expenditure of about $150,000 for a plant. It is simply the pith, free from stalk and broken into small pieces ranging from dust to lumps nearly one-half inch in diameter. It is very light and soft, weighing but nineteen ounces to the cubic foot and susceptible of almost indefinite compression, like a sponge. A close examination of the pith shows that it is full of little tubes which accounts for its enormous power of expansion and absorption when wet. One ounce of cellulose will hold fifteen ounces of water.

For purposes of illustration some of the product has been lightly pressed into



GENERAL VIEW OF THE CELLULOSE FACTORY, OWENSBORO, KY.

cakes about half an inch in thickness. A piece of this cake laid on the surface of the water will rapidly swell until it is fully six inches in thickness, where it was but half an inch at the start.

This and the fact that cocoa cellulose was already used for the same purpose suggested to Mark Marsden the idea of lining American battleships with corn pith. He went to the men who were building them and they watched his cellulose swell. They fell in with the idea and invited a government test, which was made. A cofferdam built to represent the side of a vessel was made and the 36 inch air space filled with cellulose. An eight inch shell, weighing 250 pounds, was fired at a velocity of 1,000 feet a second through the cofferdam. The cofferdam was then submerged in water on the outer side where the shell had entered. Forty-five minutes afterwards the water was withdrawn and it was found the hole had closed so tight with the swelling cellulose that it was only wet 24 inches in and not a drop of water had worked its way through the opening made by the shell. There was still 12 inches of dry cellulose between the sea and what would be the inside of the ship. It was the success of these experiments which led the United States government to adopt corn pith as the lining for its men of war. It was also determined at the same time that corn pith cellulose was practically incombustible. For this use in war vessels the cellulose is packed in the sides of vessels six pounds to the cubic foot, and it was estimated by the naval board that 1,000 pounds of cellulose was equal in resisting power as armament to 10,000 pounds of steel armor.

Other Uses.

This is the only use to which cellulose has yet been commercially applied, but it has a hundred other uses only requiring the needed machinery to make them effective. One of the simplest is its use as it comes from the mill for packing journals. Experiments have been tried on the Reading railroad, which show that cellulose is far cheaper, more lasting and requiring less oil than cotton waste, and that no such thing as a hot box could ever happen with a cellulose packing.

As a non-conductor of heat it is said to be 27 per cent better than the best covering for steam pipes, boilers and refrigerators now on the market. It makes a paper far superior to wood pulp. It is used as a basis for smokeless powder, it can be made into films for kodaks, into frescoes and all articles now made of papier mache or composition. It is used for packing fruit, for making waterproof cloth, linoleum, imitation silk and for making the finish on patent leather. In fact, it seems that it is destined to become one of the most useful basic articles of commerce, for it can be obtained in unlimited quantities in nearly every part of the country, and its utilization is simply a question of inventing machinery to work it into useful articles at practical cost. It encroaches on no other product, for it is now a waste material, the greatest waste known to the economics of agriculture. In view of its possible uses and vast sources of supply, it can surely be looked upon as one of those happy thoughts which add to the advantages of the man with the hoe over the man who toils with the matters of exchange between the producers and the consumers.

The factories producing the cellulose must necessarily be rather small, as they must be scattered among the cornfields. They will, therefore, distribute their benefits widely. The factories which manufacture the product into its varied possibilities must be in the big central cities and will, therefore, add to the wealth and employing capacities of such places. If cellulose is all that is claimed for it, and there seems no reason to doubt, it will become an important factor in the corn belt of the United States.

The Cattle Feed Product.

The food product from the stalk is by no means the least important feature of this business. It contains all that is nutritious in the stalk and is in most convenient shape to handle and feed.

The state agricultural experiment station of Maryland has conducted an extensive series of experiments with this new corn product, and the results have been quite remarkable. As only about twelve per cent of the stalks bought by the factory are pith and the other 88 per cent fodder, the uses and value of the latter cut a very large figure in the future of the business. The Maryland station has issued an elaborate report covering the experiments, but the results are summarized as follows:

The new corn product contains eleven pounds per 100 more total digestible matter and two pounds per 100 more digestible protein than the whole fodder shredded.

It contains as much digestible matter per 100 as corn blades.

It contains three pounds per 100 more total digestible matter and one-half pound per 10 more digestible protein than timothy hay.

It contains within one pound as much total digestible matter as wheat bran, but less than one-third as much digestible protein; consequently the nutritive ratio is wider.

There was more digestible matter in a fattening ration with the new cornproduct as a base than when the same grain mixture was fed with corn blades.

Animals fed with a fattening ration with the new corn product base made more gain in live weight and upon less feed than with a fattening ration of the same grain and corn blades.

Rations made up with the new corn product can be fed with less labor and less waste of feed than when hay and fodder are fed separately as ordinarily practiced.

The keeping qualities of the new corn product are as good as linseed meal, cotton seed meal or wheat bran.

The production of such a cattle food as this seems to be in itself a matter of profound importance to a country raising as many cattle as does the United States, and where millions of tons of this same material are annually thrown away. It is of special interest to the great corn belt of the lower Missouri valley and its drainage. It is the pith, the cellulose, however, which appeals more to public curiosity for its use may truly be said to be a new idea.

Plants in Operation.

The Marsden company has two plants in operation, one in Owensboro, Ky., and one at Rockford, Ill. Cornstalks are now being bought at eight other locations—Vincennes and Marsden, Sudianna, Midway, Farmer City, Chenoa, Lincoln, Fairbury and one near Peoria, Ill.

No Flats for Rent.

Young Man—I am to be married in about a month, and I'm looking for a home. What is the rent of these flats?

Janitor—Hum! Did the girl you intend to marry ever have a mother?

Young Man—A mother? Certainly.

Janitor—A grandmother?

Young Man—Of course.

Janitor—Hem! Let me see. Did that grandmother have a daughter?

Young man—Why, yes.

Janitor—And did the daughter have a daughter?

Young Man—Great snakes! Of course!

Janitor—Very sorry, sir; but I can't rent one of these flats to people like that. I'm afraid having children runs in the family.—New York Weekly.

Presents.

"I lay my future at your feet!" he exclaimed.

"But the present," protested his bride.

What was he to do?

He was living a double life just now, and a duplicate present would be hardly deriguer, under the circumstances.—Detroit Journal.

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The Coming of the General.

BY WALTER WOOD.

Author of "Barrack and Battlefield," "A Captain in the Fusiliers," etc., etc.

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"The general's coming down to inspect us in a day or two—a sort of surprise visit," said the colonel to the senior major. "I'm afraid we're a bit rusty."

"Then he'll polish us up," returned the senior major, smiling.

"I hope he won't make a mistake and polish us off," observed the junior subaltern, with great affability, wishing to make himself agreeable all round.

The senior major's smile vanished, and he stared hard at the junior. It was all very well for a field officer to make a little joke with the colonel, but that was no reason why the mere "boots" of the battalion should venture upon one. Subalterns were creatures to hear and profit by what their seniors had to say, and to offer their opinions on things when they were asked to do so, and not before.

"The general," continued the senior major, still with a hard look at the junior, who was glancing round to see how his little joke had fallen, and who was becoming rather depressed by his scrutiny, "is a man who will by no possibility take any nonsense from anybody."

The major glared, in expectation of some further remark by the junior; but the subaltern had seen a scowl on a comrade's face, and had heard from the comrade's lips a subdued hiss and what sounded very much like "Shut up." He therefore kept silence, and the major had to look for other prey.

"They tell me he's a hard man to please," said the colonel, "and a fiend to make a battalion work. If that is so, he'll make things hot for some of us."

"We might do a worse thing," said the senior major, virtuously, "than improve the shining hour between now and the time of the general's visit. There'll probably be several things that some of us ought to look up, and for my part, I shall not spare the midnight oil or the wear and tear of my intellect."

The senior major was not without an element of the prig in him, and he never showed it more than at a time like this. He knew that, so far as he was concerned, there was not a general officer in the army who was at all likely to trip him up over technicalities; just as he knew that the professional knowledge of his brother officers was at this particular stage at a low ebb.

"The general asks most unlikely questions about the most unlikely things," said the senior major, as he prepared to go, "and it's as well to be able to answer them. Now you, Rowley, for instance, if he asked you to repeat the names of the cavalry and the infantry regiments in their proper order, what would you do?"

The junior shuddered at the mere possibility of it, and said he did not know.

"I'm certain I couldn't tell," said the adjutant, coming to the rescue of the fallen one." "Nor I. Nor I," echoed the occupants of the ante-room.

"It's as simple as the alphabet," said the major, who did know; "and quite necessary to be learned, in my opinion." Then he swaggered out.

"Conceited ass," muttered the senior subaltern, as he watched the senior major walk to his quarters; "serve him right if he fell with his head on his spurs and let a little bit of his superfluous wisdom out."

Without troubling to consider the possibility of such an act he turned to Rowley and said, "If I were you I'd get the army list and wrestle with the cavalry and infantry in order of precedence."

"Then you can reel them off to the senior major, and get him one in," said the adjutant, with a smile.

"If it's any use to you I can let you have a work on the statute law relating to the army," said a pale young man who affected a close acquaintance with the legal military works published by authority.

"And I can loan you a catalogue of the pathological specimens at Netley," said the surgeon, "then you'll have the general safe on the question of the human organs in an abnormal condition."

"As to strategy and tactics," said a subaltern who spent his days in drawing up schemes on paper, and his nights in dreaming about them, and who was the worst drill in the battalion, "I can put you up to a thing or two that would knock the stuffing out of any general you could name."

All this was playfulness and buoyancy of spirit directed against Rowley, who was the proper and the natural butt for it. When, therefore, the junior rose slowly and said that he would not do these things for the commander-in-chief himself, much less the general of a district, and walked coolly out, men stared, and said nothing until he had got halfway across the parade.

"Rowley's a brick, after all," said the adjutant admiringly.

"He'll stand or fall by what he knows, and won't open a book before the general comes, that I'll warrant," said the senior subaltern enviously.

"And he'll come out as well as anybody, I'll guarantee," said the adjutant. "There's nothing like adopting the tactics of Brer Rabbit at a time like this if you've the nerve to do it. He lay low, and if we could do the same and not mix our senses and shake them up so that there'll be no chance of shaking them down again within a reasonable period we should impress the general a lot more than we shall when he comes down to see us."

"All the same," said the senior subaltern, "I shall go and rub things up a bit. It'll be just as well for some of us."

He cast a meaning glance at the remaining juniors, and they took the hint and went meekly to their quarters, where they tried hard to learn something against time.

Three days after this the senior major walked into the ante-room, looking vastly important. "The general," he said, "is coming down to-morrow, and he's going to put us through our paces. The battalion will fall in at 9 a. m., and heaven only knows when it will be dismissed. So far as a muster goes we couldn't have a finer. There won't be a single man absent from the parade who isn't regimentally employed; and that'll go a long way to set things right with the general, even if the drill isn't quite all it should be. I happen to know," added the major, and he tried to look very much as if someone had told him. But no one had. He had heard in part and assumed in part.

It was a glorious morning when the battalion fell in and marched to the Long Acre. The Long Acre was a wide stretch of greensward upon which a single battalion could do many things. It was bounded on one side by the barrack-wall, and on the side opposite to this was the front garden wall of the Vicarage.

The colonel walked down the lines and inspected the men, and when he had done so he returned to the senior major and said he thought the battalion would gladden the heart of a very fury.

"There's positively only one man absent," he said, "and that's that drunken beast of a Wilton. But better let him be away soaking than be here half-sober and spoiling the drill and the look of things."

"Far better," acquiesced the major.

"I don't know what time the old fellow's expected here," continued the colonel, "but at any rate he'll find us prepared. He'll be a little astonished when he visits the barracks, to learn that we've been up and doing for some time."

"It would be well to get the battalion to work, wouldn't it?" suggested the senior major. "Then we shall have got into trim when the general comes. Even an hour's performance works wonders at a time like this; and he can't very well turn up this side of half-past ten."

And so the battalion went to work, and in the space of an hour it had shaken all the looseness out of itself. The men were on their mettle, and were prepared to meet the eye of any general without flinching.

The battalion had done its duty nobly, and the colonel knew it. He was rather tired himself, and assuming that the men also were weary he commanded them to stand easy for a while.

The battalion thereupon fell into various easy attitudes, and the men's eyes wandered to all parts of the Long Acre. For one thing, there were many women folk about, and it was pleasant to be able to shoot glances at them, and ask them by signs what they thought of the battalion's exhibition generally.

Suddenly the eye of the sergeant-major became transfixed by an object near the Vicarage. He was an officious man was the sergeant-major, and he no sooner saw the object than he hurried up to the adjutant, and said in a low voice:

"Sir, the general's watching us from the corner of the Vicarage wall."

The adjutant turned his head cautiously, and from the tail of his eye saw the cocked hat and frock coat of the great man of the district.

"He's a wonderful power of vision, sir," said the sergeant-major; "he can see an unbuttoned kersey half a mile off. He's got a marvellous heye."

The sergeant-major coughed. He made a slip in his speech sometimes, and always knew it. Whenever he slipped he coughed, and persuaded himself that the error had been so trifling as to be unnoticed. The cough was to cover the retreat of the error; and in making it the sergeant-major prided himself on being extremely artful.

"A marvellous eye," repeated the sergeant-major, warily guarding his words; "and he can see every man in the ranks as plainly as I can see the feathers in his own cocked hat."

"Why does he sneak around in this way?" asked the adjutant, "and spy on our actions, instead of coming in proper style and inspecting us?"

The sergeant-major cleared his throat. Here was an opportunity not to be missed. The adjutant had never seen the new general, nor had any other officer in the battalion. He, the sergeant-major, had seen him; and he, the sergeant, major was going to rub the fact in liberally.

"The general," said the sergeant-major, having cleared his throat, "is just a trifle hodd." He paused, and shot a glance at the face of the adjutant to see if he had noticed the slip. But the face of the adjutant was wooden and impassive, and he showed no sign of recognition of the wandering aspirate. He was a man who took his enjoyment solemnly. "Just a trifle eccentric," went on the sergeant-major, and having got the words out safely he assumed a look of defiant triumph. "One of his greatest pleasures is to come down unexpected and give a ridgment a toasting."

"Oh," said the adjutant.

"Yes," proceeded the sergeant-major, nettled somewhat by his superior's coolness; "a toasting—and a ——, beg pardon, sir, I'm sure, I meant a hextra good toasting."

The shadow of a smile flitted across the adjutant's visage. The sergeant-major saw it, and condemned himself in heated terms, but silently.

"I've known him," proceeded the sergeant-major, "to stand against a wall for three hours at a time, watching a battalion drill, and he's never moved. It's a way he has, being by nature playful. And I've known him stand there still and make no sign when half-a-dozen men have fainted in the ranks."

The sergeant-major was drawing on his imagination, but that, he reasoned, was of small moment, since no one in the corps would be any the wiser or the worse for it.

"Just as he's standing now," went on the sergeant-major, reflectively, "have I seen him stand—many a time and oft, but rather more so."

There was another ghost of a smile on the adjutant's face, but the sergeant-major didn't see it. He was too busy with his fancy.

"It's the general's way to the life," said the sergeant-major. "He's very free in his attitudes—not at all military, most negligey, in fact."

"He certainly does look negligé, as you say," said the adjutant.

The sergeant-major looked suspicious. He had not used any such word.

"Not to say like a sack of coal with its back broken," added the adjutant, and he walked off towards the colonel.

"This infernal mystery bests me," said the colonel, as the adjutant approached him. "What's your opinion of it?"

"It isn't out of keeping with the character of a general," replied the adjutant.

"They're a privileged body," interposed the senior major; "they can do no wrong. Now if I lolled against a wall just as the general is lolling, I should expect the battalion to say hard things. Not to put too fine a point upon it, I should expect them to say that I was under the influence of liquor."

"I don't know enough about the general of the district to be able to express an opinion," said the colonel, "but judging from the spectacle which that amiable old gentleman against the Vicarage wall presents I should say he isn't in his right mind."

The sergeant-major says he knows the general's little ways perfectly," said the adjutant. "He used to be in the regiment of which the general was colonel, and says he's one of the most extraordinary men alive. According to the sergeant-major the general always does this sort of thing with a new battalion."

The colonel began to think he might be judging the general harshly. After all, a man might just as well watch the drill from a quiet sunny corner as go fussing about the ranks, and interfering with everything and everybody.

"I'll show him," said the colonel, "that he won't catch my battalion sleeping. Just put it through its show paces, Harwood."

The senior major went and did as he had been ordered. It took half an hour to put the battalion through its show paces, for that particular performance included the manual and firing and bayonet exercises; and by the time the ceremony ended the men were in an evil mood. They were once more ordered to stand easy, and were glad that this was so, for it gave them a chance to say what they thought—and it was not flattering—about generals as a body, and this general as an individual.

While the men rested the colonel, baffled and incensed, wondered what he should do next.

The battalion had been put through all it knew. It had broiled and sweated in the sun for an hour, and yet the general made no sign of advancing or retiring. He still leaned negligently against the wall, the tip of his cocked hat tilted just over his eyes—Jove, the battalion supposed, to keep the sun out of them. How he kept his position no one knew; for he looked every moment, as the sergeant major expressed it, "as if he'd shutter in a leap to the hearth."

"It's the most extraordinary attitude that ever mortal man adopted," said the senior major to the commanding officer. "For a man in his high position it's most unseemly."

"When you become the general of a district," said the colonel, "you can adopt any attitude you like, and no one can say anything against it. That's one of the advantages of the position. I've made a mistake in this wretched business. I ought never to have laid myself out to try and please him in this way. I feel strongly disposed to dismiss the parade and make out that I never knew he was near. It's a horrible and disgusting fix."

"He mightn't like it if you did," said the senior major.

"Like be——" The colonel checked himself, and asked imploringly, "What are we to do? How are we to get near and have a chance of hearing what the wish of the old ghoul is?"

"Why not carry out the attack formation?" suggested the major, who had brilliant notions at times.

"The very thing!" exclaimed the Colonel, "Why didn't I think of it before?"

"You can make the General the position to be attacked," said the Major; "then there'll be no question about his seeing we're here. We shall get to the very nose of him. He can't very well pretend not to see us if we storm the spot where he is and carry it by assault."

"You've a wonderful imagination," said the Colonel, delightedly; "that idea would never have struck me even if I'd been on parade all day."

"I'm thought to have rather a fine fancy," said the Major complacently, "but, all the same, it's very good of you to say what you have said."

"By Jove, and I meant it," said the Colonel, enthusiastically, lavish of praise now that he saw a way out of his difficulty. "You ought to be an actor or a writing fellow, with an imagination like yours."

The Colonel meant well, but the Major happened to have a rather low opinion of the dramatic and literary professions, and scarcely appreciated his chief's compliment. He would have preferred being likened to a great strategist or tactician.

The battalion carried out the attack formation, it was a fine performance; the men entered into the spirit of it, and if they had been firing ball ammunition the General would have been blown into many fragments. As it was he retained his position. He was unmoved, and all that happened was that the tip of his hat tilted a little more forwarded and shaded his eyes better.

"The cunningest old fox on earth," said the Sergeant-Major. "Makes believe not to see us peep; and all the time he's watching us with eyes like a lynx's. I wasn't under him for years without getting to know his little ways. Just see how he'll come to life when we charge."

The General did come to life, but not quite as the men expected. The last volley had been fired, bayonets were fixed and the battalion dashed fiercely on to capture the position. The men rushed forward with a rousing cheer.

The General heard it, and raised his head at last. Then to the unutterable amazement of the battalion his cocked hat tumbled to the ground and the General did the same.

The cheer died away, and the battalion halted without being ordered.

The Colonel, with a strong foreboding of evil, rode forward, and halted a few yards away from the General.

Then the mystery was explained.

As the truth flashed upon him the Colonel felt a strong temptation to shout with laughter, but the eyes of the battalion were upon him, and discipline must be maintained.

"Take the drunken beast to the guard-room!" he said, and four men fell out and conveyed Private Wilton, at the "Frog's March" to his place of retirement.

"March the battalion back to the parade and dismiss it, Harwood," said the Colonel, and the Senior Major did so.

* * * * *

"What puzzles me is," said the Colonel, as he sat in the ante-room with Harwood consoling himself with a whisky and soda, "Where did he get the hat and coat?"

"Nothing easier," answered Harwood. "He went and borrowed them at the regimental theatre. He was just drunk enough to mix things nicely up, and make a mess of everybody."

"It isn't a bad joke," said the Colonel his eyes twinkling and his face relaxing. "By Jove! How we shall laugh about it in years to come!"

"And how the General will laugh about it to-morrow!" said Harwood.

"What of the Sergeant-Major?" asked the Adjutant.

The Colonel and the Senior Major laughed, and the Colonel said, "Leave him and Wilton to settle the matter between them, then justice will be done all round."

[The end.]

WONDERFUL WEAPON.

The most wonderful weapon ever seen in this country in the way of a revolver is at present in San Francisco, the property of Theodore Krtka. The weapon comes from Bavaria, and several governments are making bids for it. The pistol, wrecked a target in the

RECOIL FROM EVERY SHOT FIRES THE NEXT SHELL.

station house during the test—not only wrecked it, but pierced three inches of chilled steel at the back of it. All this innocent-looking little weapon requires is that the marksman pull the trigger once, whereupon it empties itself of six loads in two seconds.

Papa Knows.

"Aren't you afraid," asked the caller of the fond mother, "that your son will permanently impair his health, studying so diligently as he does?"

"I was inclined to be uneasy, but his papa says the dear boy will have nothing to do after he is admitted to the bar and will have ample time to recuperate."—Detroit Free Press.

CROSSES OF HONOR.

Here are the five bits of metal offered as rewards for individual bravery on the field of battle, and there is hardly a man in the countries they represent who would not gladly risk his life for one of

VICTORIAN CROSS.

them. Of the great powers of Europe, England was the last to institute a special decoration on the battlefield. During the Crimean war the Victorian cross was instituted. It consists of a maltese cross of bronze and is of little intrinsic value, yet some of the bravest deeds in history have been done for this bit of gun metal. The Legion of Honor was in-

LEGION OF HONOR, FRANCE.

stituted by the great Napoleon. Unfortunately, this order has now fallen into disrepute, until it is now facetiously referred to in France as "The Legion of Dishonor." But the traffic in the order in no way detracts from those who were on its roll before the third Napoleon. The Order of the Iron Cross was founded by Frederick William III., of Prussia,

IRON CROSS OF GERMANY.

during the time he visited England and helped to form the combination which ruined Napoleon forever. Until 1870 it was purely a reward for bravery in war, but since has become a civic as well as military decoration. The oldest of existing decorations for bravery was insti-

THE MARIA THERESA CROSS OF AUSTRIA.

tuted by the Empress Maria Theresa, of Austria, in 1757. The order consists of a gold cross with the arms of Austria and the word "fortitudine" (for valor) inscribed on it. It has been reserved for higher ranks in the Austrian army, and thus lacks the democracy of the Victorian cross. The highest order in the Rus-

CROSS OF ST. GEORGE, RUSSIA.

sian army is that of St. George, instituted by Catherine II., who, in spite of her many faults, had a great admiration for bravery.—New York World.

KANGAROO-TAIL SOUP.

Kangaroo tail soup is becoming a London delicacy. A ton and a quarter of kangaroo tails have been imported to London, and one shop in Leadenhall market offered a quantity for sale at one shilling each. They are ship-

IN DANGER OF EXTERMINATION.

ped by the cold storage system. It is said that the slaughter of kangaroos is increasing in Australia, and they are in danger of extermination.

Her Tremendous Fear.

Mertie—Oh, dear, I am dreadfully worried. I bet a dozen kisses with Fred against a dozen pair of gloves that it will rain to-morrow.

"And you are afraid you will lose?"

"Not a bit. I do not need the gloves."—Life.

No Occasion for It.

"Will you love me when I'm old?" asked Mrs. Darley romantically.

"Will I love you when you mold?" repeated Mr. Darley. "You will not mold, dear. When you die I will have you cremated."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Question Bureau.

RULES.—1.—Real name and address must be written with every question. 2.—Only one question at a time. 3.—Don't ask for addresses of persons, or firms, nor where to buy or sell anything, for such answers are free advertising. 4.—Don't ask about the reliability of any person or firm. 5.—We reserve the right to reject any question whose answer would not be of general interest; and will answer no mathematical problems, questions of law, etc. 6.—No answers by mail.

Pensions and National Revenue.

"From what source does the United States government obtain the money with which the soldiers' pensions are paid, and about how much would a real estate owner whose property is valued at $5,000 contribute to the city in which he lives? Is there such a thing as one of above funds. Is there such a thing as one of two men of equal valuation contributing more than the other, and if so, how?"—G. D., Spring Mills, Pa.

There is no special source for the money to pay pensions. It comes out of the general fund in the United States treasury. The money for government expenses comes from two sources: first, the duties paid on imported goods; second, from the internal revenue tax on liquor, tobacco, cigars and oleomargerine. Taxes paid on real estate are state taxes, and go for state and county expenses. Not one cent of such taxes goes into the United States treasury, and so none of it goes to pay pensions.

Greater New York.

"When New York, Brooklyn, etc., become Greater New York, will there be fewer counties than now in the state, and, if so, how many less?"—Schoolboy, Steamburg, N. Y.

As we understand the matter, the counties are not abolished. At present New York county in all within the city limits of New York, and Kings county is entirely within Brooklyn, yet they are still existent as counties; and the counties involved will not be abolished by the municipal consolidation.

Saccharin.

"What is saccharin, where manufactured, and what is it used for?"—M. C., Murray, Idaho.

Saccharin is a white powder, which is one of the numerous "coal-tar derivatives"—being, like hundreds of other substances valuable in the arts and in medicine, made from coal tar. It is intensely sweet, and is used in medicine to sweeten food for diabetic patients, who do not dare use sugar in any form. It is made by manufacturing chemists, and any druggist can order it for you.

National Bank Taxation.

"Please inform me what per cent, if any, national banks have to pay annually to the United States government for the privilege of doing business on the capital stock invested?"—B. J. W., Delphos, O.

National banks are taxed the same as any other corporation, under state laws, in the states in which they belong. They pay a tax of one-half of 1 per cent on their circulation to the national government, to pay the expense of printing and redeeming their notes. There is no reason why they should pay special tax to the national government, any more than any other firm or individual.

Export Price of Wheat.

"If wheat is worth $1 per bushel in New York, what do foreigners pay for it, and what kind of money do they pay for it?"—G. K., Defiance, Iowa.

It is worth in the European port where it is bought the export price in New York, with ocean freight added. It is paid for in the money of whatever country it is imported into, by bills of exchange. Of course you understand that these bills are payable in gold, if it be demanded.

Buying Silver Bullion.

"When the government buys a quantity of silver bullion and coins it, is any one the loser by it?"—G. K., Defiance, Iowa.

Nobody is the loser. There is no loss. Of course, the government is in the first instance, the gainer, for it makes a profit of the difference between the price paid for the bullion and the face of the coin; but eventually it will have to make this good, so the profit is apparent, not real.

Free Coinage Query.

"Suppose we now had free coinage of silver and the silver in the present dollar was worth a dollar in gold, would farmers get any more for their produce? If not, why not?"—G. K., Defiance, Ia.

They would certainly not get any more for their produce than they do now. How could they? What would make wheat sell for more to-day, under the conditions you name, than it actually does?

Government Land.

"Please tell me how much, if any, government land there is in Tennessee?"—G. W. S., Council Bluffs, Ia.

We do not think there is any government land in Tennessee open to entry, as there is no United States land office in that state.

Silver Dollars Before 1873.

"How many silver dollars were coined up to 1873?"—W. H. H., Leipsic, O.

There were only $8,031,283 coined from 1792 up to February 12, 1873. None at all were coined from 1805 to 1833, inclusive.

Gunboats at Donelson.

"Can you tell me how I can learn what gunboats were at the seige or capture of Fort Donelson?"—W. H. P., Fort Worth, Tex.

The ships attacking Fort Donelson were a part of Commodore Foote's fleet. Those in the action were the flagship St. Louis, the ironclads Carondelet, Louisville and Pittsburg, and two wooden gunboats, the Tyler and the Conestoga.

Soldiers' Funeral Expenses.

"Is there a law providing for the burial expenses of a pensioned soldier in case he has no means to pay the same?"—J. F. S., Sturris Mill, W. Va.

The United States has made no such provision. A number of states, however, have, among them Ohio, New York and Michigan.

Public Lands.

"Is there yet land in the United States to be taken up by soldiers or soldiers' children of the late Civil war, and in what state or states do these lands lie, and what course would be necessary to pursue to obtain possession of such land?"—Reader, Melton, Ill.

You can take up land wherever the United States government has any for that purpose. The fact that you are the child of a soldier gives you no advantage. You have only the same right as any other citizen to take up a homestead claim.

Picket Posts.

"If you can, will you please tell how a Grand Army post can organize picket posts in the neighborhood where it is located?"—J. T. S., Guadenhutten, O.

We do not know. Never heard of the plan. If it is in operation, will some G. A. R. comrade please answer?

A Tire Question.

"I want new rims and tires on my buggy, and in order to give dish to the wheels, and leave the rims in proper position with the spokes, I claim the inside edge of the tire should be a little longer than outside edge; but three or four blacksmiths here say I am wrong. Am I?"

You are wrong. To give equal protection to the rims of your wheels the tires should be of equal width both on the inside and outside of the rims.

Measuring Masonry.

"How is stone mason work measured at the present time? Are windows and doors and corners deducted in paying for building a wall?"—A. C. H., Oregon, Wis.

There is no standard of measurement in stone masonry. In different localities each have their own system. At this place contractors do not make deductions for windows, doors and corners, except where the windows or doors are of extraordinary size. A contractor in your locality could answer more in detail your questions.

Rain-in-the-Face.

J. C. C., of Ironville, O., has our thanks for this information in reply to a recent query:

"Rain-in-the-Face was the war chief of the Sioux. He is still living, so far as I know, and about 55 years of age. He and Chief Gall led the two wings of the Sioux at the battle of the Little Big Horn, where Custer was slaughtered, the 400 Cheyennes being under Medicine Arrow and Little Horse. Rain-in-the-Face had been captured before this by Custer, and imprisoned for murder, but escaped from prison. When the Sioux were subjugated he was made chief of the Indian police at Red Cloud agency, and is probably there yet."

Pension Questions.

"Prior to what date must a woman have been married to an old soldier to draw a pension after his death?"—M. C., Kimball, Minn.

Under the act of June 27, 1890, prior to the date of the passage of that law, which was June 27, 1890. There is no restriction under other laws.

"I saw from some paper, that a captain's widow receives $20 per month pension, a first lieutenant's $18, and second lieutenant's $16. Is that correct? I have been told different figures and want to know correctly, so write to you for information."—E. T., Lincoln, Neb.

We give rates of pension for last time; they have been published repeatedly: Widow of second lieutenant, $15 per month; first lieutenant, $17 per month; captain, $20 per month; major, $25 per month; colonel, $30 per month.

"Where a soldier is drawing a pension and he signs up his voucher and the soldier dies before the check comes, what course does the widow pursue to get the money on the pending check?"—N. W. S., Acting, Tenn.

She must make application for the same, and prove herself the widow of that soldier, if she is an applicant for pension, the proof in her claim will cover the accrued pension.

"Does the government allow a soldier to still draw his pension if he joins a relief society for the purpose of drawing a sum of money at time of death, and takes his oath that he is an able-bodied man when he joins, but was drawing pension then and still drawing now?"—Reader, East Stoneham, Me.

We cannot decide this question. Submit it to the Commissioner of Pensions.

"Can the widow of a soldier, married after the present time, obtain a pension in case of the husband's death? I heard that the law to pension widows was done away with."—Subscriber, Wilbur, Wash.

Under the act of June 27, 1890, no widow can receive a pension under that law, who married the soldier on or after the above date.

"A man enlisted on April 5, was mustered out June 28, discharged July 5. Can he get a pension under the act of June, 1890, or will they count to the time of muster out, which would be only 84 days?"—Subscriber, Oregon City, Ore.

The date of muster out of service governs.

"How far behind is the Pension Bureau with its business? I was examined two years ago, and have not any returns as yet. Is it disability, or the length of time one served, that gives an increase?"—C. C. K., South Monterey, Mich.

We cannot answer your first question. As to the second, an increased disability receives an increase.

"Please inform me why soldiers cannot be reinstated? I have not heard of a single one being allowed or reinstated under this administration in this state."—J. W. B., Eye, N. C.

You are mistaken. The commissioner's report, just published, shows a large number of reinstatements.

Many veterans may not be aware of the fact, that under an act approved March 6, 1896, the soldier who applied for a pension under the new law, act of June, 1890, and whose claim was rejected, can have his case reconsidered and, in the event of his pension being granted, he is entitled to all the arrearage that would have accrued to him under his original application, provided it is shown that he was disabled in a pensionable degree at the time his first application was filed.

"My father died in 1865, my mother in 1872, I being an only child, and my mother never re-marrying. Am I eligible to a pension? If so, what would I draw as a minor child? I was born June 6, 1865."—K. B. M., Peacock, N. C.

If you can prove that your father's death was due to his military service, your pension would be $8 per month, and $2 additional from the date of your mother's death to your sixteenth birthday.

"Please give me pension law regarding nurses. Could volunteer nurses who only served a short time in camp hospitals, but were never detailed so as to draw pay, be eligible to a pension? How long did a nurse have to serve in the late war in order to draw a pension?"—, Chicago, Ill.

The act of Congress approved August 5, 1892, provides pension to nurses who served six months or more.

"How much pension is a war widow entitled to, and how much her children under sixteen? Can a child draw any more after the mother marries again than before?"—A. B. L., Flora, Ill.

At the re-marriage of the widow, the child is entitled to the same amount of pension the mother was receiving, but this stops entirely when the child becomes sixteen years of age.

"How much per month can the widow of a soldier, who drew $12 per month under the old law, draw? How much per month can the widow of a soldier who drew $12 per month under the new law draw? How much can the widow of a captain or first lieutenant draw per month? Under any circumstances, can a woman who has drawn a pension marry another man, be divorced, and draw her old pension?"—W. S. T., Winona, Ind.

In the first case, the widow can obtain $12 per month, if the soldier's death was due to the same cause for which he was pensioned. In the second case, she can draw $8 per month if she was married to him before June 27, 1890; if later, she can get no pension. Pension of the widow of a captain is $20; of first lieutenant, $17; of second lieutenant, $15; provided his death was due to service. By remarrying, a widow loses her pension forever. The law prohibits it. The only way to do it would be to get Congress to pass a special pension bill, allowing her old pension to be restored.

Pandora.

"Who was Pandora—the one referred to when speaking of Pandora's box—and at what time did she exist?"—C. M. C., Bighill, Va.

Pandora never existed. She was a creation of Greek mythology, and the story is told in Hesiod as follows: Jupiter was angry because Prometheus had stolen fire from heaven, and ordered Vulcan to make a beautiful virgin, who was dressed by Minerva, adorned with fascinations by Venus and the Graces, and endowed with a deceitful mind by Mercury. She was brought to Epimetheus, who, disregarding the command of his brother Prometheus not to receive any gift whatever from Jupiter, received her while his brother was absent. When admitted among men she opened a casket—"Pandora's box"—enclosing all the evils of mankind, and everything escaped except delusive hope.

1900 Not a Leap Year.

"Some time ago I saw an article in a daily paper on the subject of leap year, claiming that we would have no leap year in 1900. Will you please explain why, as I see that it is divisible by 4, the usual way of ascertaining the fact?"—"Lynch," Buda, Ill.

The trouble is, you do not remember the rule for finding leap year. When Pope Gregory reformed the calendar, he adopted this rule for finding leap year: Every centurial year (that is, one ending in two ciphers, like 1600, 1800, 1900) that is exactly divisible by 400 shall be a leap year, and every other year which is exactly divisible by 4. As 1900 is not exactly divisible by 400, it is not a leap year. The next leap year will be 1904.

Man an Animal.

"Is man an animal? It is taught in our school here that he is, which has led to a discussion in the neighborhood."—D. S., Vriesland, Mich.

Your people who are disputing have apparently never taken the trouble to look into a good dictionary, and find out what an animal is. An animal is "a sentient living being, breathing air, living by food, and possessing the power of voluntary motion." A man is an animal; a bird is an animal; a fish is an animal. The word "animal" is often used in a restricted sense, to mean brutes, such as horses, cattle, swine, etc.

Impeaching Congressmen.

"Will you please tell if Congressmen can be impeached?"—G. A. E., Caruthersville, Mo.

Article 2, sec. 4, of the constitution of the United States says: "The President, Vice President, and all civil officers of the United States, shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, and other high crimes and misdemeanors." It is not clear who may be impeached. The above section prescribes the punishment for all "civil officers" on impeachment and conviction, but the constitution nowhere defines "civil officers," nor does it say that others are not liable to impeachment. Some hold to the view that members of Congress are not included among "civil officers," on the ground that Section 3, Article 2, provides that the President "shall commission all the officers of the United States." But members of Congress are not commissioned by the President; hence it is inferred that they are not "civil officers." Under the constitutional section, and hence not liable to impeachment. The question will not be settled until some member of Congress commits an offense under Section 4, Article 2, and an effort to impeach him is made.

Swollen Neck

Also Had Great Difficulty With Her Heart—How Cured.

"My daughter had a swollen neck and also heart trouble. After the least exertion she would breathe so hard she could be heard all over the room. She could not sweep the floor or even move her arms without affecting her heart. Her limbs were badly bloated. Her father insisted that she must take Hood's Sarsaparilla, and we gave her about six bottles, when she was cured, and there has been no return of her ailments." MRS. EMMA THOMAS, North Solon, Ohio.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier. Sold by all druggists. $1; six for $5.

Hood's Pills easy to buy, easy to take easy to operate. 25c.

The Song of the Cradle.

Bye, bye! Hope rises high:
There's a sweet little cradle hung up in the sky;
A dear little life that is coming to bless;
Two soft chubby hands that will pat and caress;
A pure little soul winging down from above;
A darling to care for, a baby to love.

In the days when Eve sinned it was written that motherhood should hereafter be accompanied with pain and sorrow; but this curse upon our foreparents has been lightened more and more as mankind have learned to rise superior to many of their sins and mistakes.

One of the grandest agencies which enlightened Science has discovered to relieve motherhood from excessive suffering is the "Favorite Prescription" devised by Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, of Buffalo, N. Y. This wonderful "Prescription" imbues the entire nervous system with natural, healthy vitality; gives elastic vigor to the delicate organism specially concerned in motherhood; renders the prospective mother strong and cheerful and makes the coming of baby entirely free from danger and almost free from pain. The delighted gratitude of Mrs. Pearl Walton, of Alvo, Cass Co., Neb., will find an echo in the heart of every expectant mother:

"Previous to the birth of my child," writes Mrs. Walton, "I had no appetite, was sick at my stomach, had headache, could not rest at night, was completely worn out in every way. I commenced to use Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and began to improve right away. I used two bottles of this great medicine and felt like a new person. At the time of confinement I was in labor but a little while and I owe it all to that great remedy—Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription."

Dr. Pierce's Pellets cure constipation.

Recent Literature.

Readers desiring any further information whatever about these volumes will please address the publishers, whose address is given in every case, and not inquire of The Blade. We do not deal in books.

English Lands and Letters and Kings, by Donald G. Mitchell, constitutes the fourth and last volume of the series issued under the above title, covers the period of the later Georges to the time of Victoria, and includes, thus, many of the most loved and admired authors in English literature. Do not, however, expect to find in this work anything resembling a closely connected and complete history of the literature of that period, nor the formality in tone or style characteristic of such a work. Others have succinctly done that, filling in every name and work of the time, but lacking much of the peculiar charm of Mr. Mitchell's special manner of treatment. He acts more as a free lance, dwelling, as his fancy and sympathy move him, upon some writer or book which he loves, again passing without mention others which have not attracted him and might not attract you. In the same manner he devotes himself to such works as he chooses of an author, passing over such others as it pleases him to omit. But whatever his pen touches, be assured that the heart, too, and his sympathy are in it. We get, not the cut-and-dried opinion of the formal critic, but the warm, personal regard for, or the fair, personal estimate of, both a book and its writer, from a man who is moved by sympathy and fairness, by a heart that feels while the brain studies both the deeds and the works of the authors under consideration.

The book is published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

Like a Gallant Lady, by Kate M. Cleary, is a tale of Nebraska—

"Of a land where drouth devoureth,
Making labor void and vain;
Where ambitions cease to glow
Where the hopes of men are buried low."

That the author can carry her readers along with so much interest, through a country not one of them would want to live in, and with people among whom there is scarcely one deeply interesting character, is testimony at once that the book has been cleverly planned and splendidly written.

The publishers are Way & Williams, Chicago.

Celebrated Trials, by Henry Lauren Clinton, is a remarkable book in some respects. The title would seem to indicate a not particularly readable thing, except perhaps for lawyers. It is a surprise, then, to find in the first few pages that you have before you not a dry treatise of law, not a technical study of law points, but reading of a decidedly popular sort.

The book contains over 600 pages and it is to be remarked again, that at the conclusion the reader will regret he has reached the end of a work that was anything but enticing in its title and so entertaining in its contents. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York.

Men I Have Known, by the Very Rev. F. W. Farrer, Dean of Canterbury, will be set down by intelligent readers as one of the comparatively few books coming to hand these days which one would care for, both as an ornament and all other results of self-abuse or excesses. and a valuable acquisition in a choice library. Momentarily it is highly entertaining and altogether interesting, and, as time goes forward, it will become more and more valuable as a light, in a biographical way, upon the literary works of the men whom Dean Farrer knew so well and has here presented so graphically.

The work is published in one volume, illustrated with numerous fine portraits and fac simile letters, by Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., 46 East Fourteenth street, New York.

From the Scribner's comes a collection of short stories by F. J. Stimson, most of which have already appeared in the magazines. The title is taken from the first tale in the book, named Mrs. Knollys's, a story so full of pathos that one can hardly keep back the tears while reading. It tells how, on the bridal tour of a young couple, the husband falls into a crevasse in the Alps. Forty-five years later, by the movement of the glaciers, his body is brought to light, and she sees him there frozen on the ice, looking just as he did the day he perished from her side.

Other stories in the volume are The Three Achievements of Colleen Flour Consul at Carlsruhe; A First Love Letter, and In a Garret. All have this same quality of pathos.

What a Young Man Ought to Know is the second volume by Dr. Sylvanus Stall in Self and Sex series, now in the course of publication by the Vir Publishing Company, of Philadelphia, of which the first under this title has been noticed in this column. The author treats of subjects usually avoided in a plain, practical, common sense manner, answering questions pertaining to the mysterious problems of life without impurity and without evasion.

Gondola Days, by F. Hopkinson Smith, is a most enthusiastic description of Venice, the City of the Sea.

Read with the 200 colored pictures by Mr. Smith in the sumptuous volume, Venice of To-Day, and published as a subscription book in large quarto and folio form, and one would not grow weary with the enthusiasm of the writer. Even in this modest volume, however, with the few illustrations many will read sunny descriptions with pleasure. The volume is published by its present modest but pretty form by Houghton, Mifflin & Company of Boston.

Eight important leaflets relating to the Anti-Slavery Struggle has just been added to the valuable series of Old South leaflets, constituting Nos. 78-85 of the series, which has now grown to such large dimensions. The new anti-slavery leaflets are as follows: A Reprint of the First Number of "The Liberator"; Wendell Phillips' Eulogy of Garrison; Theodore Parker's Address on the Dangers from Slavery; Whittier's Account of the Anti-Slavery Convention of 1833; Mrs. Stowe's Story of "Uncle Tom's Cabin"; Sumner's Speech on the Crime against Kansas; Words of John Brown; and the First Lincoln and Douglas Debate.

The eight leaflets are bound together in a neat volume in paper covers, with an introduction giving complete lists of all the Old South leaflets and lectures since 1883, and sold for 35 cents. They can be had by applying to the Directors of the Old South Work, Old South Meeting House, Boston, Mass.

"It has been said that the fall of the Bastille first revealed to France the weakness of her government, and that the government never recovered from the revelation." These are the opening words of the second volume of Justin H. McCarthy's fine work entitled The French Revolution. It takes up the narration of events from the fall of the Bastille, and carries it through to the close of the Constituent Assembly, making it include some of the most exciting times in French history.

There is always a fascination about the style in everything that Mr. McCarthy writes, a dash, a fervid eloquence, a picturesqueness which we do not expect to find in the historian, who is supposed to seek only facts and to present them carefully and impartially. Yet, in this work, while pervaded with the qualities we speak of which belong to the orator rather than to the writer, the reader finds no confusion, and no difficulty in following the thread of events.

JUSTIN McCARTHY.

This brilliant writer and parliamentary speaker was born in Cork in 1830. For several years he was a journalist, being chief editor of the London Star, and later connected with the New York Independent. He is the author of several well known works, among them The History of Our Own Times.

There is one chapter given to the principal journals of the period, and also a concise account of the most important clubs. The volume concludes with a good index. It is published by the Harpers.

Ursula N. Gestefield writes of How We Master Our Fate. The volume brought out by the Gestefield Publishing Company, of New York, is made up of a considerable number of essays published originally in The Exodus. The spirit of the work may be gathered from such sentences as the following in the preface: To see destiny instead of fate, law and order in place of luck or chance, is to see the possibility of control: it is to expend our energy in co-operation with law and thus gain those results which are practical proofs that destiny is master of fate, and we rulers of circumstances instead of its slaves."

I have several times noticed Frank Stockton's story which has been running as a serial in Harper's Magazine. Now that it has come out in book form and can be viewed as a whole, The Great Stone of Sardis is only proved to be one more of those whimsical things of the author, whose very absurdity is the key to its fascination. There is but one Stockton, but one whose imagination can play such strange and always delightful pranks, and it has not failed this time. The book is brought out by the Harpers.

I always approach a big, thick book with a feeling of dread, mixed with wonderment that an author, in these days, can find time to fill so many pages for a hurrying public to read. It was in this attitude of mind that I took up The Beth Book, Madame Sarah Grand's latest story. It looks remarkably like the old-fashioned English novel with its nearly 600 pages of rather fine, though, thanks to the publishers, very clear print, except that it is in one volume instead of two or three. The public will read it, however, if for nothing else than to see what it is that has caused the antagonism of the reviewers, for in the columns of print which are now appearing condemnation is more plentiful than praise. And yet none deny the ability of the writer.

This book, which the author regards as her most important work, is the fruit of several years of careful study. That there is a purpose back of it all, no one will doubt who reads it carefully. It traces the evolution of a child to womanhood, through all of the subtle changes wrought by varying conditions upon a somewhat peculiar temperament. The outlook upon the world from her point of view is depicted with a graphic earnestness which impresses the reader with a strong sense of reality, and this holds all the way through. Neither the good nor bad characters are overdrawn, and I cannot see where, in discussing social problems, the author has failed in delicacy and dignity. The subjects which she deals with are vital to the happiness and well-being of everybody, and while the intensity of her feeling may sometimes make her appear radical, it is what will arouse thought and bring final betterment. She shows as many good men as good women, and makes her position, that what degrades one sex degrades the other, clearly defined everywhere. The Appletons are the publishers in this country.

Raphael Tuck & Sons, New York, send the following for the holidays:

The Children's Hour, edited by Edric Vredenburg. The stories are from the pen of M. A. Noyes, Dora Hopper, Antony Guest and S. C. Bennett. The illustrations are partly in colors and partly in black and white, and very pretty.

Just One More is a second volume made as a companion to The Children's Hour.

The Lowell Calendar, each page having, with pretty illustrations, quotations from Mr. Lowell's writings.

A calendar entitled Flowers of the Year, the title of which shows the character. It is very beautiful.

Christmas cards of all shapes, sizes and designs, of variety enough to please the taste of everybody.

Longfellow's The Village Blacksmith, in a pretty booklet, illustrated by H. Copping and others; also the poem Excelsior.

Calendars, Golden Words from the Bible; Time's Treasures; Golden Words from Browning; Oliver Wendell Holmes; Where Roses Grow; Pretty Polly; Friendly Greetings; and Mayflower.

Uncle Lisha's Outing is a lively story about New England and Canadian people, by Rowland E. Robinson. It is, though complete in itself, a sort of continuation of other stories by this same author, introducing many of the same characters. It is full of incident, but is most too full of dialect to please many readers. Houghton, Mifflin & Company are the publishers.

A beautiful volume is brought out by the Harpers entitled Three Operettas, by H. C. Bunner. The three have the following quaint names: The Three Little Kittens of the Land of Pie; The Seven Old Ladies of Lavender Town; and Bobby Shafton. The music is by Oscar Weil and the fine illustrations are by C. J. Weldon and C. J. Taylor. The volume is a charming one.

Folly's Bells is a dainty holiday gift book, from the Peter Paul Book Company, Buffalo. The introduction describes the observance of Christmas Eve according to the custom in many Christian lands. The author, Anna Gardner Hall, follows this with the story of ancient Stavoren, one of the most flourishing cities of Europe in the twelfth century. A beautiful and wealthy woman, high in authority, but frivolous and selfish, wrought much harm; and finally, through her folly, at the time of a terrible storm the dykes at the entrance of the harbor were broken, the Zuyder Zee overflowed its limits, the city was submerged, and nearly all the inhabitants perished, among them Lady Richberta herself.

The Holiday Bulletin of Houghton, Mifflin & Company, of Boston, has been received by The Blade, and looked over with pleasure. It contains descriptions of their holiday and other books published this season, with a quite full announcement of the leading features of The Atlantic Monthly for the coming year, and a liberal selection from the illustrations appearing in holiday books—namely, Miss Alexander's Tuscan Songs, Fiske's Critical Period of American History, Miss Phelps's Story of Jesus Christ, Thoreau's Walden, Warner's Being a Boy, LOEB Lyrics, Miss Murfree's Young Mountaineers, and Mrs. Lincoln's Unwilling Maid.

Richard Mansfield, the actor, has given to the world a book—not anything serious, but a story to amuse children, and puzzle any grown person who attempts to guess what the author is driving at. The book is named Blown Away. A party of children disappointed in a picnic because it rained and kept them indoors, fled to their old nurse for a story and she told them this.

Long ago there was a widow who had forty daughters and a wind came and blew them all away but two—blew them so far we never hear of them again. That leaves only two to concern ourselves with. The wind carried them on one day and ended them among very strange people and animals and into most astounding places and experiences. L. C. Page & Co., Boston, are the publishers.

An Oregon Boyhood is a new sort of tale for boys, written by Rev. Louis Albert Banks. Dr. Banks takes his readers into an entirely new field of adventure, giving them a description of the scenes and incidents of boyhood and youth in that far-off western country about 1852. Published by Lee & Shepard, Boston.

At the Front, by Oliver Optic, is the fifth of the series of "The Blue and the Gray—on Land," and the last but one of the six volumes. It is a continuation of the narrative of the Riverlawn Regiment from the formation of the two companies as a squadron till in the present volume it becomes a full cavalry regiment of twelve companies. Lee & Shepard, Boston, are the publishers.

The Skipper's Wooing, by W. W. Jacobs, is a very funny book for men as well as boys. The Seamew was not a large boat, and the crew was composed of only the skipper, his mate, two seamen, a cook and a boy, but they had experiences. The boy was in it, so was the cook, so was each one in turn, and the chief business of this precious crew seemed to be going from port to port looking for a lost sailor and incidentally for trouble. The book is cleverly planned and excellently written. Frederick A. Stokes Co., New York.

Three Pretty Maids, by Amy E. Blanchard, is undoubtedly one of the most charming and one of the most useful stores for girls and boys that have been written. It describes a half dozen girls and boys, in school and in their homes. Three of the girls are daughters of a loving, thoughtful and helpful mother who guides them in the ways of wisdom and right living, and extends her beneficence to their companions as well. The book could not be more natural if it were taken from the actual life of real persons, with all the facts detailed as to their thoughts, impulses and behavior. The publishers are J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

George Bronson Rea, the field correspondent of the New York Herald, has recently put forth a book through George Munro's Sons, New York, entitled Facts and Fakes About Cuba, in which he declares that many of the stories told about the Spanish cruelties in Cuba are untrue, their object being to embroil the United States in a war with Spain. His recital places the liberators in a different light from that shed upon them by many writers.

Truth and Poetry is a little volume made up of poems collected together by the author, R. P. Brorup, several years ago and now given to the public through the International Book Co., of Chicago. The subjects are those which lie near to the heart of the every-day person. Some of them are full of the deeper thought and are very prettily versified.

The Breath of Life is a series of mental self-treatments written by Ursula N. Gestefield and published by the Gestefield Publishing company, of New York. They are arranged for certain conditions, as for instance the following: When There is the Sense Named Insomnia; When There is Need of Patience; When There is Dread of the Future; When There is Proneness to Anger, etc. It is a very pretty little volume.

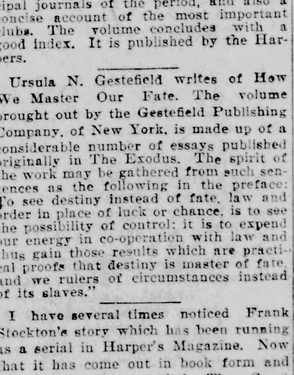
A number of the valued Old South Leaflets which are being published by the directors of Old South Work, Washington street, Boston, have been recently received by The Blade. Among them are the following: The First Lincoln and Douglas Debate; William Lloyd Garrison; The Anti-Slavery Convention of 1833, and The Story of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

A little book entitled A Story in Three Moods is published by F. Tennyson Neely, New York. It is, as said, divided in three parts in which the author, Mrs. Arthur Giles, has told how two pretty girls are first in search of happiness, then in search of pleasure and finally in search of peace. Of course, there is a moral to the tale, which is contentment.

In a pretty volume issued by the Harpers, John Corbin gives an American view of School and College Life in England. He says in the preface that his first interest in the English schools was aroused by living for a year and a half on intimate terms with the undergraduates of Oxford, and he came to the conclusion that their method of education made a man surprisingly solid in character, and at the same time surprisingly simple and natural."

The volume is really a study of the great institutions of "secondary education" in England—the Public Schools. As types of the system, the author selects Winghester, founded in 1387, Eton, in 1440, and Rugby, founded in 1567 and remodelled by Arnold during his headmastership, which commenced in 1837. Broadly speaking, these three schools represent, respectively, scholarship, the aristocratic, and the middle class sentiment, and they hover between them the whole ground, and together embody the principles upon which the whole system of secondary schools is modelled.

Unkist Unkind, by Violet Hunt, is a society story, the scene of which is laid in London. The story is very well told and though far from a pleasant one, will hold the reader who likes sensations and tragedies. It is published by the Harpers.



MEN CURED FREE.

The Private Formula of a Noted Physician Sent Free to All Who Write.

WEAKENED MANKIND MAY NOW GRASP A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY.

Thousands of men will welcome the news that a most successful remedy has been found for sexual weakness, such as impotency, shrunken organs, nervous debility, lost manhood, night emissions, premature discharge

It cures any case of the difficulty. Mr. H. C. Olds, who cured himself after many years' suffering, wants to let other men know about it. He will therefore send the receipt giving the various ingredients to be used, so that all men at a trifling expense can cure themselves. He sends the receipt free, and all the reader need do is to send his name and address, stating he is not writing out of curiosity, but wishes to give the remedy a trial, to Mr. H. C. Olds, Box 1798, Kalamazoo, Mich., requesting the free receipt as reported in the papers. It is a generous offer, and all men ought to be glad to have such an opportunity as this.

The Farmstead.

INFORMATION WANTED.

Lice On Hogs—Horse Stocks.

J. F. C., Wisconsin: The first thing to be done to get rid of the lice will be to clean out all old bedding and burn it. Wash the hogs all over with crude petroleum, and the next day give them a thorough washing with warm soft water and soap. Then dry them properly. If any lice remain apply an ointment of Scotch snuff and lard to the affected parts. To overcome stocking, tonics and stimulants are necessary to enrich the blood that has become impoverished. Give 1½ ozs. pure sulphate of iron, and 2 ozs. nitrate of potash. Powder and mix. Divide into 12 powders. Give a powder night and morning. Give occasionally a bran mash. Give daily gentle exercise and wrap the legs with flannel bandages when the horse comes in from exercise or work.

Mange on Dog.

R. P. S., Alabama: Rub unsalted lard over the parts affected and after three hours wash the dog well with soap and warm water to get out all the scabs and scurf. Dry the dog thoroughly, and apply the ointment once a day: Sulphur, 2 ozs.; lard, 2 ozs. After four days wash off with warm water and soap. If the case is a bad one it may be necessary to continue the treatment for two weeks, using the warm water and soap also after last application. The dog must be kept in a dry, warm place and out of the rain. All bedding on which he sleeps must be burned and his house cleaned in order that the disease may be eradicated. Neglect to clean the kennel will spread the disease. If the dog sleeps on a rug or blanket it should be well boiled or burned.

Too Much Salt.

B. C., West Virginia: "Common salt (or sodium coloride) in large quantities fed acts as a corrosive, irritant poison, causing gastro-eriteritis, injected mucous membranes, diarrhea, weak and irritable pulse, and excessive thirst; also vomiting," says the Encyclopedia of Live Stock. Milk and eggs is an antidote. Beat up six fresh eggs in two quarts of good, new milk. This may be given through a drenching horn or bottle. It should be given twice in 24 hours. If there is much pain stir ½ oz. laudanum in the first eggs and milk given and apply mustard paste externally. All cattle should be given salt. The best way is to put pieces of rock salt where they may lick it. It sells by the ton at $7.50 to $8 and is in large pieces.

Cut on Barbed Wire.

A. F., South Dakota: The bunch left on your mare between the fetlock and hoof, and which will not heal, is in a place that when the mare is in motion, will be irritated. While the lump cannot be entirely removed it may be reduced. The mare must have rest. Poultice the part for two days. Examine the old wound to see if there is any pus in the swelling. If so it must be opened, and injected with carbolic acid 1 part, water 10 parts. If there is any foreign substance as sand, or dust, the wound must be opened and the substance removed. This should be done by a veterinary surgeon. Apply this to the wound: Burnt alum 1 part, rosin 1 part, wheat flour 2 parts. This may be sprinkled on the part or made into a paste with sheep's tallow. It should have a new dressing every day, washing off with castile soap and water before each application and afterward drying well. The part should be bandaged with old, soft muslin. The stall must be kept perfectly clean, so that no irritant can touch the wound. If there is proud flesh in the wound that will not yield to the above application touch the part with lunar caustic and water. But the burnt alum will no doubt have the desired effect.

Lump on Lower Jaw of Steer.

D. B., Ohio: The lump on your steer is a disease known as lumpy jaw. The treatment is 1 drachm iodide of potassium in a pint of fresh water every morning. This should be continued for fifteen to twenty days, if the animal runs at the nose and the outer coat of the skin peels off do not get alarmed. If the running at the nose becomes excessive stop the medicine for two or three days. Cattle fatten under the treatment. The medicine may be given from a drench horn or wine bottle.

Pigs' Throats Swell.

F. M., Wisconsin: Your pigs died of quinsy. When a pig is seen to be suffering from this disease it should at once be given an injection of sulphate of magnesia, 4 ozs.; oil of turpentine, 2 drachms, and soap-suds, ½ pint. The pig should be cast and firmly held. Then scarify the skin of the throat until blood flows freely. Next foment the throat with cloths pungent in very hot water. Give internally if the pig can swallow two teaspoonfuls of turpentine in a bowl of gruel. If it cannot swallow, fasten a feather to the end of a stick, dip it in a mixture of half turpentine and half oil, and swab the throat as far as can be reached. The pigs must be kept away from draughts of air.

Thoroughbred Fox Hound.

J. K., Michigan, wishes to learn of some one who wishes to sell a good thoroughbred fox hound pup.

Mule Bitten by a Snake.

W. A. F., Tennessee:—A poultice of tobacco leaves is good to take the lameness out after a snake bite has healed. Wrap the part affected with flannel dipped in hot vinegar. Afterward apply the tobacco poultice after drying the part well.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Corn-Stalk Disease.

Editor Blade, Farmstead:—Regarding corn stalk disease in cattle, I know of a remedy that proved successful, which was to see that all the cattle drank before letting them in stalk fields. It seems simple, but I believe it will prove effectual.—T. J. Wallace, Alcester, South Dakota.

(All stock raisers should remember the above. Editor.)

Rabbits Gnawing Trees.

Editor Blade Farmstead—The very best thing to keep rabbits from gnawing fruit trees is soft soap. Thin it so that you can put it on with a brush-broom or anything else that is handy. Apply it 18 or 20 inches high from the ground. There is nothing better for the health and growth of young fruit trees than an application of soft soap all over the trunk and large limbs. It destroys all insects, scruf and mice about the roots and the washing it gets by the rains furnishes alkali about the roots and keeps them hardy and in good condition. There is nothing better for young trees than soft soap.

He who expects to protect his trees for the winter had better get a hustle on him soon, for the rabbits will begin to get in their work as soon as the snow covers the ground.

The best way to destroy moles is to buy 5 cents' worth of arsenic, mix it into dough and prepare a stick. Taper the stick at end to the size of a dime. Perforate their runs in different places. Have the holes open and clear to the bottom of their runs. Take chunks of the poisoned dough as large as a grain of corn and drop in the holes. It will get the moles every time, if have tried it enough to know that it is a sure thing.

Another good remedy to destroy moles is to soak corn in arsenic and water and put it in their runs. A writer in The Blade Farmstead, a good while ago, said that the mole's mouth was so constructed that it couldn't eat corn. But they do eat corn all the same. I have had 30 or 40 hills of corn taken in the same row clean before it was through the ground. A sucker fish has a mouth that is not made for cracking hickory nuts, but it can manage to get a fish-hook and bait into its mouth all the same. The mole is one of the worst pests that the farmer and gardener has to contend with. It

Talmage's Sermon.

DUTY TO THE WORLD.

Giants in Mind and Body Should Devote Their Powers to Good.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Taking the exciting story of Samson's fall as a suggestion, Dr. Talmage, in this discourse, shows how giants in body and mind or soul ought to be consecrated to good and great purposes. His text is Judges xiv. 1: "And Samson went down to Timnath."

There are two sides to the character of Samson. The one phase of his life, if followed into the particulars, would administer to the grotesque and mirthful; but there is a phase of his character fraught with lessons of solemn and eternal import. To these graver lessons we devote our sermon. This giant no doubt in early life gave evidences of what he was to be. It is almost always so. There were two Napoleons—the boy Napoleon and the man Napoleon—but both alike; two Howards—the boy Howard and the man Howard—but both alike; two Samsons—the boy Samson and the man Samson—but both alike. This giant was no doubt the hero of the playground, and nothing could stand before his exhibitions of youthful prowess. At eighteen years of age he was betrothed to the daughter of a Philistine. Going down toward Timnath, a lion came upon him, and although this young giant was weaponless, he seized the monster by the long mane and shook him as a hungry hound shakes a March hare, and made his bones crack, and left him by the wayside bleeding under the smiting of his fist and the grinding heft of his heel.

There he stands, looming up above other men, a mountain of flesh, his arms bunched with muscle that can lift the gate of a city, taking an attitude of defiance of everything. His hair had never been cut, and it rolled down in seven great plaits over his shoulders, adding to his bulk, fierceness, and terror. The Philistines want to conquer him, and therefore they must find out where the secret of his strength lies.

There is a dissolute woman living in the valley of Sorek by the name of Delilah. They appoint her the agent in the case. The Philistines are secreted in the same building, and then Delilah goes to work and coaxes Samson to tell what is the secret of his strength. "Well," he says, "if you should take seven green withes, such as they fasten wild beasts with, and put them around me I should be perfectly powerless." So she binds him with the seven green withes. Then she claps her hands and says: "They come—the Philistines!" and he walks out as though they were no impediment. She coaxes him again, and says: "Now tell me the secret of this great strength?" and he replies: "If you should take some ropes that have never been used and tie me with them I should be just like other men." She ties him with the ropes, claps her hands, and shouts: "They come—the Philistines!" He walks out as easily as he did before—not a single obstruction. She coaxes him again, and he says: "Now, if you should take these seven long plaits of hair, and by this house-loom weave them into a web, I could not get away." So the house-loom is rolled up, and the shuttle flies backward and forward and the long plaits of hair are woven into a web. Then she claps her hands, and says: "They come—the Philistines!" He walks out as easily as he did before, dragging a part of the loom with him.

But after awhile she persuades him to tell the truth. He says: "If you should take a razor or shears and cut off this long hair, I should be powerless and in the hands of my enemies." Samson sleeps, and that she may not wake him up during the process of shearing, help is called in. You know that the barbers of the East have such a skillful way of manipulating the head to this very day that instead of waking up a sleeping man they will put a man wide awake sound asleep. I hear the blades of the shears grinding against each other, and I see the long locks falling off. The shears or razor accomplishes what green withes and new ropes and house loom could not do. Suddenly she claps her hands and says: "The Philistines be upon thee, Samson!" He rouses up with a struggle, but his strength is all gone. He is in the hands of his enemies.

I hear the groan of the giant as they take his eyes out, and then I see him staggering on in his blindness, feeling his way as he goes on toward Gaza. The prison door is open and the giant is thrust in. He sits down and puts his hand on the mill crank, which, with exhausting horizontal motion, goes day after day, week after week, month after month—work, work, work! The consternation of the world in captivity, his locks shorn, his eyes punctured, grinding corn in Gaza!

First of all, behold in this giant of the text that physical power is not always an index of moral power. He was a huge man—the lion found it out, and the 3,000 men whom he slew found it out; yet he was the subject of petty revenges and out-gianted by low passion. I am far from throwing any discredit upon physical stamina. There are those who seem to have great admiration for delicacy and sickliness of constitution. I never could see any glory in weak nerves or sick headache. Whatever effort in our day is made to make the men and women more robust should have the favor of every good citizen as well as of every Christian. Gymnastics may be positively religious.

Good people sometimes ascribe to a wicked heart what they ought to ascribe to a slow liver. The body and the soul are such near neighbors that they often catch each other's diseases. Those who never saw a sick day, and who, like Hercules, show the giant in the cradle, have more to answer for than those who are the subjects of life-long infirmities. He who can lift twice as much as you can, and walk twice as far, and work twice as long, will have a double account to meet in the judgment.

How often it is that you do not find physical energy indicative of spiritual power! If a clear head is worth more than one lizzy with perpetual vertigo—if muscles with the play of health in them are worth more than those drawn up in chronic "rheumatics"—if an eye quick to catch passing objects is better than one with vision dim and uncertain—then God will require of us efficiency just in proportion to what he has given us. Physical energy ought to be a type of moral power. We ought to have as good digestion of truth as we have capacity to assimilate food. Our spiritual hearing ought to be as good as our physical hearing. Our spiritual taste ought to be as clear as our tongue. Samsons in body we ought to be giants in moral power.

But while you find a great many men who realize that they ought to use their money aright, and use their intelligence aright, how few men you find aware of the fact that they ought to use their physical organism aright! With every thump of the heart there is something saying, "Work! work!" and, lest we should conclude that we have no tools to work with, God gives us our hands and feet, with every knuckle, and with every joint, and with every muscle saying to us, "Lay hold and do something."

But how often is it that men with physical strength do not serve Christ! They are like a ship full manned and full rigged, capable of vast tonnage, able to endure all stress of weather, yet swinging idly at the docks, when those men ought to be crossing and recrossing the great ocean of human suffering and sin with God's supplies of mercy. How often it is that physical strength is used in doing damage or in luxurious ease, when, with sleeves rolled up and bronzed bosom, fearless of the shafts of opposition, it ought to be laying hold with all its might, and tugging away to lift up this sunken wreck of a world.

It is a most shameless fact that much of the business of the church and of the world must be done by those comparatively invalid. Richard Baxter, by reason of his disease, all his days sitting in the door of the tomb, yet writing more than a hundred volumes, and sending out an influence for God that will endure as long as the "Saints' Everlasting Rest." Edward Payson, never knowing a well day, yet how he preached, and how he wrote, helping thousands of dying souls like himself to "swim in a sea of glory!" And Robert McCheyne, a walking skeleton, yet you know what he did in Dundee, and how he shook Scotland with zeal for God. Philip Doddridge, advised by his friends, because of his illness, not to enter the ministry, yet you know what he did for the rise and progress of religion in the church and in the world.

Wilberforce was told by his doctors that he could not live a fortnight, yet at that very time entering upon philanthropic enterprises that demanded the greatest endurance and persistence. Robert Hall, suffering excruciations, so that often in his pulpit while preaching, he would stop and lie down on a sofa, then getting up again to preach about heaven, until the glories of the celestial city dropped on the multitude, doing more work, perhaps, than almost any well man in his day. Giants in soul.

Oh, how often it is that men with great physical endurance are not so great in moral and spiritual stature! While there are achievements for those who are bent all their days with sickness—achievements of patience, achievements of Christian endurance—I call upon men of health to-day, men of muscle, men of nerve, men of physical power, to devote themselves to the Lord. Giants in body you ought to be giants in soul.

Behold also, in the story of my text, illustration of the damage that strength can do if it be misguided. It seems to me that this man spent a great deal of his time in doing evil—this Samson of my text. To pay a bet which he had lost by guessing of his riddle he robs Thrust in. He sits down and puts his hand on the mill crank, which, with exhausting horizontal motion, goes day after day, week after week, month after month—work, work, work! The consternation of the world in captivity, his locks shorn, his eyes punctured, grinding corn in Gaza!

First of all, behold in this giant of the text that physical power is not always an index of moral power. He was a huge man—the lion found it out, and the 3,000 men whom he slew found it out; yet he was the subject of petty revenges and out-gianted by low passion. I am far from throwing any discredit upon physical stamina. There are those who seem to have great admiration for delicacy and sickliness of constitution. I never could see any glory in weak nerves or sick headache. Whatever effort in our day is made to make the men and women more robust should have the favor of every good citizen as well as of every Christian. Gymnastics may be positively religious.

Good people sometimes ascribe to a wicked heart what they ought to ascribe to a slow liver. The body and the soul are such near neighbors that they often catch each other's diseases. Those who never saw a sick day, and who, like Hercules, show the giant in the cradle, have more to answer for than those who are the subjects of life-long infirmities. He who can lift twice as much as you can, and walk twice as far, and work twice as long, will have a double account to meet in the judgment.

How often it is that you do not find physical energy indicative of spiritual power! If a clear head is worth more than one lizzy with perpetual vertigo—if muscles with the play of health in them are worth more than those drawn up in chronic "rheumatics"—if an eye quick to catch passing objects is better than one with vision dim and uncertain—then God will require of us efficiency just in proportion to what he has given us. Physical energy ought to be a type of moral power. We ought to have as good digestion of truth as we have capacity to assimilate food. Our spiritual hearing ought to be as good as our physical hearing. Our spiritual taste ought to be as clear as our tongue. Samsons in body we ought to be giants in moral power.

But while you find a great many men who realize that they ought to use their money aright, and use their intelligence aright, how few men you find aware of the fact that they ought to use their physical organism aright! With every thump of the heart there is something saying, "Work! work!" and, lest we should conclude that we have no tools to work with, God gives us our hands and feet, with every knuckle, and with every joint, and with every muscle saying to us, "Lay hold and do something."

But how often is it that men with physical strength do not serve Christ! They are like a ship full manned and full rigged, capable of vast tonnage, able to endure all stress of weather, yet swinging idly at the docks, when these men ought to be crossing and recrossing the great ocean of human suffering and sin with speak upon this theme they are apt to cover it up with the graces of belleslettres, so that the crime is made attractive instead of repulsive. Lord Byron in "Don Juan" adorns this crime until it smiles like a May queen. Michelet, the great French writer, covers it up with bewitching rhetoric until it glows like the rising sun, when it ought to be made loathsome as a smallpox hospital. There are to-day influences abroad which, if unrebuked by the pulpit and the printing press, will turn out modern cities into Sodom and Gomorrah, fit only for the storm of fire and brimstone that whelmed the cities of the plain.

You who are seated in your Christian homes, compassed by moral and religious restraints, do not realize the gulf of iniquity that bounds you on the north and the south and the east and the west. While I speak there are tens of thousands of men and women going over the awful plunge of an impure life; and while I cry to God for mercy upon their souls, I call upon you to marshal in the defense of your homes, your church and your nation. There is a banqueting hall that you have never heard described. You know all about the feast of Ahasuerus, where a thousand lords sat. You know all about Belshazzar's carousal, where the blood of the murdered king spirted into the faces of the banqueters. You may know of the scene of riot and wassail, when there was set before Esopus one dish of food that cost $40,000. But I speak now of a different banqueting hall. Its roof is fretted with fire. Its floor is tesselated with fire. Its chalices are chased with fire. Its song is a song of fire. Its walls are buttresses of fire. Solomon refers to it when he says: "Her guests are in the depths of hell."

Behold also in this giant of the text and in the giant of our own century that great physical power must crumble and expire. The Samson of the text long ago went away. He fought the lion. He fought the Philistines. He could fight anything, but death was too much for him. He may have required a longer grave and a broader grave, but the tomb nevertheless was his terminus.

If, then, we are to be compelled to go out of this world, where are we to go? His body and soul must soon part. What shall be the destiny of the former I know—dust to dust. But what shall be the destiny of the latter? Shall it rise into the companionship of the white-robed, whose sins Christ has slain? or will it go down among the unbelieving, who tried to gain the world and save their souls, but were swindled out of both? Blessed be God, we have a champion! He is so styled in the Bible: a Champion who has conquered death and hell, and he is ready to fight all our battles from the first to the last. "Who is this that cometh from Edom with dyed garments from Bozrah, mighty to save?" If we follow in the wake of that Champion death has no power and the grave no victory. The worst man trusting in him shall have his dying pangs alleviated and his future illumined.

In the light of this subject I want to call your attention to a fact which may not have been rightly considered by five men in all the world, and that is the fact that we must be brought into judgment for the employment of our physical organism. Shoulder, brain, hand, foot—we must answer in judgment for the use we have made of them. Have they been used for the elevation of society or for its depression? In proportion as our arm is strong and our step elastic will our account at last be intensified. Thousands of sermons are preached to invalids. I preach this morning to stout men and healthful women. We must give to God an account for the right use of this physical organism.

These invalids have comparatively little to account for, perhaps. They could not walk half a mile without sitting down to rest. In preparation of this subject I have said to myself, how shall I account to God in judgment for the use of a body which never knew one moment of real sickness? Rising up in judgment, standing beside men and women who have only little physical energy, and yet consumed that energy in a conflagration of religious enthusiasm, how will we feel abashed?

Oh, men of the strong arm and the stout heart, what use are you making of your physical forces? Will you be able to stand the test of that day when we must answer for the use of every talent, whether it were a physical energy or a mental acumen, or a spiritual power?

The day approaches, and I see one who in this world was an invalid, and as she stands before the throne of God to answer she says: "I was sick all my days. I had but very little strength, but I did as well as I could in being kind to those who were more sick and more suffering." And Christ will say, "Well done, faithful servant."

And then a little child will stand before the throne and she will say, "On earth I had a curvature of the spine, and I was very weak, and I was very sick; but I used to gather flowers out of the wilderness and bring them to my sick mother, and she was comforted when she saw the sweet flowers out of the wildwood. I didn't do much, but I did something." And Christ shall say, as he takes her up in his arms and kisses her, "Well done, well done, faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." What, then, will be said to us—we to whom the Lord gave physical strength and continuous health?

I said to an old Scotch minister, who was one of the best friends I ever had: "Doctor, did you ever know Robert Pollock, the Scotch poet, who wrote 'The Course of Time'?" "Oh, yes," he replied, "I knew him well; I was his classmate." And then the doctor went on to tell me how that the writing of "The Course of Time" exhausted the health of Robert Pollock, and he expired. It seems as if no man could have such a glimpse of the day for which other days were made as Robert Pollock had, and long survive that glimpse. In the description of that day he says, among other things:

Begin the woe, ye woods, and tell it to the
    coleful winds,
And doleful winds wail to the howling hills,
And howling hills mourn to the dismal vales.
And dismal vales sigh to the sorrowing
    brooks,
And sorrowing brooks weep to the weeping
    stream,
And weeping stream awake the groaning
    deep.
Ye heavens, great archway of the universe,
    put sackcloth on;
And ocean robe thyself in garb of widowhood,
And gather all thy waves into a groan, and
    utter it
Long, loud, deep, piercing, dolorous, immense
The occasion asks it, Nature dies, and angels
    come to lay her in her grave.

What Robert Pollock saw in prophetic dream, you and I will see in positive reality—the judgment! the judgment!

Where Did the Author Come In?

"Our fee for examining your manuscript," said the manager of the literary bureau, "was $10."

"Yes."

"And costs."

"Certainly."

"Well, I am happy to say that we have placed it for you and I take great pleasure in handing you the editor's check for $2.75."—Atlanta Constitution.

Insomnia Prevaricators.

Insomnia degrades its victims
Till they risk perdition's brink;
When they've snored all night they grumble
That they haven't slept a wink.
—Chicago Record.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The fac-simile Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

WHAT MAN DOES NOT LOVE BEAUTY?

Mrs. Pinkham Counsels Young Wives to Keeep Their Attractiveness. A Letter From a Young Wife.

Seven-eighths of the men in this world marry a woman because she is beautiful in their eyes.

What a disappointment then to see the fair young wife's beauty fading away before a year passes over her head!

I feel as if I would like to say to every young woman who is about to be married—"Strengthen yourself in advance, so that you will not break down under the new strain on your powers." Keep your beauty, it is a precious possession! Your husband loves your beauty, he is proud to be seen in public with you; try to keep it for his sake, and your own.

The pale cheeks, the dark shadows under the eyes, the general drooping of the young wife's form, what do they mean? They mean that her nerves are failing, that her strength is going and that something must be done to help her through the coming trials of maternity.

Build her up at once by a course of some tonic with specific powers. Such as Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. You can get it at any druggist's.

Following we publish by request a letter from a young wife—of her own accord she addresses it to her "suffering sisters," and while from modesty she asks to withhold her name, she gives her initials and street number in Chambersburg, Pa., so she can easily be found personally or by letter:

To my Suffering Sisters:—Let me write this for your benefit; telling you what Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has done for me. I am but nineteen and suffered with painful menstruation, leucorrhœa, dizziness, burning sensation back of ears and on top of my head, nervousness, pain and soreness of muscles, bearing-down pains, could not sleep well, was unable to stand without pain, and oh! how I longed to be well!

One day I wrote to Mrs. Pinkham telling her all, knowing I could do so in perfect confidence.

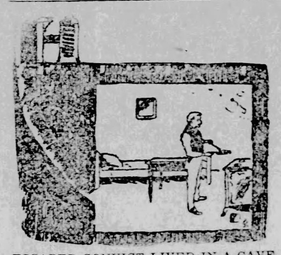
She wrote me a lovely letter in reply, telling me exactly what to do. After taking nine bottles of the Compound, one box of Liver pills, and using one-half package of Sanative wash, I can say I am cured. I am so happy, and owe my happiness to none other than Mrs. Pinkham.

Why will women suffer when help is near? Let me, as one who has had some experience, urge all suffering women, especially young wives, to seek Mrs. Pinkham's advice.—Mrs. R. S. R., 113 E. Catherine St., Chambersburg, Pa.

BICYCLE WAS HIS RUIN.

The case of Mr. Cyrus Miller, a convict who escaped from the Nebraska penitentiary a couple of years ago, shows how easily one may live who has ingenuity and simple tastes.

When Mr. Miller escaped from jail he eventually found himself in a schoolhouse in Blue Earth county, Minnesota. He laboriously constructed himself a retreat there, making



ESCAPED CONVICT LIVED IN A CAVE.

a trap door one day, digging a roomy cellar by night, papering and arranging his subterranean retreat to his liking.

When he had finally built and furnished a pleasant abode, he made enough to live on by nightly raids. Chickens, eggs, milk—all sorts of provisions he stole.

He might have continued his peaceful career of petty depredation for years, but he grew ambitious. He stole a bicycle.

Of course he was hunted then. And he was found, and the labor of years was undone. He will be dragged back to serve out the rest of his term.

WITH THE WITS.

Getting Used to It—"I see," he said, looking up from his paper, "that a couple are to be married in a wild beast's cage. What for?"

"I don't know," she retorted. "When one has to live with an old bear she might as well get used to it from the start."

And the curtain dropped.—Buffalo Express.

Cause of the Quarrel—She—So many men marry for money—you wouldn't marry me for money, would you, dearest?

He (absently)—No, darling, I wouldn't marry you for all the money in the world.

And he marvels now that she did not speak the last time he met her.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Mr. Asbury Peppers—"The day is done, the youngest boarder murmured sentimentally, "That's right," Asbury Peppers admitted, "but the night is pretty raw."

After which all hands shivered and went in off the porch.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

No Wonder—"What," asked the British official, "shall we do to the Ahkoond?"

"Swat him," said the high official.

"Do you think we kahn?"

"Certainly. Ameer trifle."

And then the tribesmen ordered another revolution.—New York Town Topics.

All That She Had Left Him—"If it wasn't for one thing," said the footpad, "I'd blow your head off."

"What's the thing that holds you back?" the victim asked.

"This street car ticket that you've got to get home on. It proves that you told the truth when you said you had no money. I'm a married man myself."—Cleveland Leader.

Missed the Fun—"Baby isn't nearly as good as she was in the summer."

"Why not?"

"She used to get so much fun during flytime out of watching her father slap his bald head."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Appropriate Sepulture—Where should a postman be buried? Why, in the postcrypt.—Moonshine.

His Distinguishing Quality—An old Atlanta darky gave his employer the other day some reminiscences of the war.

"And you say," said his employer, "that you followed your master through the entire war?"

"Dat I did, suh!" was the proud reply.

"He was a great soldier, was he?"

"Well, suh," replied the old man, "I couldn't tell much erbout dat. He wuz runnin' so fas' all de time it wuz hard ter keep up wid him. All I does know is he wuz purty swift!"—Atlanta Constitution.

DOG HAS FALSE TEETH.

The greatest curiosity at Crystal Palace, London, was an aged and very sleepy little Schipperke, which boasts of the proud and unique distinction of being the only dog in the world with a complete set of false teeth. His fame speedily spread among the visitors and he was always the center of a curious crowd and the object of much admiration. At the outset he resented the attempts of strangers to open his mouth in order to inspect his artificial grinders, but eventually he yielded to the inevitable and accepted their attentions with considerable patience.

The dog is owned by a dentist, Mr. E. Mose-

MYN DUYVEL.

ly, who practices his profession in the city. The poor old doggy's teeth were fitted up by way of an advertisement, as his master intends to open a canine dental office.

A Change.

"For a whole year," said Jimpson, "Darley has talked about nothing but the wonderful merits of his seventy-five dollar Getthere wheel. He made everybody at our boarding house weary declaiming about its trength, durability and speed. We were going to lynch him, but fortunately we won't have to, as he has suddenly dropped that subject entirely."

"That's good," said Burnly. "What does he talk about now?"

"Why, his new '98 model 'Gofast' wheel, of course."

"I don't see that that is much better," said Burnly, doubtfully.

"You don't hey?" said Jimpson. "Why, man, we all ride 'Gofast' wheels at our boarding house! It is a very popular topic for conversation."

And Burnly scratched his bald head.—New York Journal.

Good-By.

Good-by, good-by! how oft we say it,
Careless, unheeding e'en the heart's dull cry,
In after years to wake and find life's music
Hushed all its sweetness at that last "good-by."
—Boston Transcript.

How a person can gain a pound a day by taking an ounce of Scott's Emulsion is hard to explain, but it certainly happens.

It seems to start the digestive machinery working properly. You obtain a greater benefit from your food.

The oil being predigested, and combined with the hypophosphites, makes a food tonic of wonderful flesh-forming power.

All physicians know thi to to be a fact.

All druggists; 50c. and $1.00.
SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, New York.

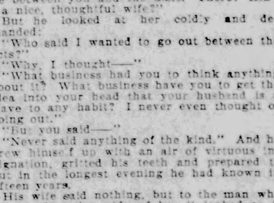
NOT ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD

A fact often overlooked, or not always understood, is that women suffer as much from distressing kidney and bladder troubles as the men. The womb is situated back of and very close to the bladder, and for that reason any distress, disease or inconvenience manifested in the kidneys, back, bladder or urinary passage is often, by mistake, attributed to female weakness or womb trouble of some sort.

The error is easily made and may be as easily avoided by setting urine aside for 24 hours; a sediment or settling is evidence that your kidneys and bladder need doctoring. If you have pain or dull aching in the back, pass water too frequently, or scanty supply, with smarting or burning—these are also convincing proofs of kidney trouble. If you have doctored without benefit, try Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, the great kidney remedy. The mild and the extraordinary effect will surprise you. It stands the highest for its wonderful cures. If you take a medicine you should take the best. At druggists 50 cents and $1. You may have a sample bottle and pamphlet both sent free by mail. Mention Weekly Blade and send your address to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y. The proprietors of this paper guarantee the genuineness of this offer.

HIS QUEER PEN.

It makes no difference to Walter Lowery, of Jersey City, that steel pens rust and gold pens break, that stubs blot and fine pens scratch. For Mr. Lowery proceeds on the



EVERY MAN HIS OWN PEN.

principle that every man should be his own pen, so to speak.

He allows the nail of his right forefinger to grow to a prodigious length. Then he trims it to a fine point and writes away, cheerfully dipping it into the ink well.

WHY SHE SMILED.

The characters in the opera were just lining up for the closing chorus of the first act, says the Chicago Post, when she leaned over toward him and whispered:

"John."

"Well?" he replied.

"The curtain will go down in a minute," she asserted.

"I know it," he replied.

"You know I am not opposed to drinking within reason, John."

"I promise you I shall not take more than two, Mary."

"Oh, that's not it," she explained. "The last time we were at the theater you tried to climb over me and stepped on my corns."

"I will be very careful, Mary."

"I know you will, John; but there are two other women between you and the aisle."

"I will be equally careful with them."

"Of course, John; I am sure you will," she said, "and I know I might as well try to fly as prevent you from climbing over the occupants of the seats between you and the aisle. I realize that a theatre would not be a theatre

"NEVER SAID ANYTHING OF THE KIND."

without the usual extra set pleasures, and I might as well ask you to go without breakfast as to go without them, so I've got it all fixed for you. In my muff——"

"Well?"

"In my muff you will find a nice little bottle that holds just about enough for all the intermissions to-night, and I'd a good deal rather see you drink from that right here in the theatre than beat a path over the corns that lie between you and the aisle. There! Ain't I a nice, thoughtful wife?"

But he looked at her coldly and demanded:

"Who said I wanted to go out between the acts?"

"Why, I thought——"

"What business had you to think anything about it? What business have you to get the idea into your head that your husband is a slave to any habit? I never even thought of going out."

"But you said——"

"Never said anything of the kind." And he drew himself up with an air of virtuous indignation, gritted his teeth and prepared to put in the longest evening he had known in fifteen years.

His wife said nothing, but to the man who sat on the other side of her it looked as if she were laughing.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East Indian missionary, the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all nervous complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 820 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

CLOTHES-DRYING CABINET

For housekeepers with small rooms or contracted yards the clothes-drying cabinet will be found inexpressibly convenient. It gives 40 feet of drying space, and can be auto-

USEFUL IN SMALL QUARTERS.

matically raised and locked above the head. When not in use it folds into the cabinet on the wall, covered with the lid, and, therefore, is neither unsightly nor in the way.

Its Disadvantages.

Perambulating Pete—I'm real sorry dey has made Brooklyn part of Greater New York, Leary.

Languid Leary—Why so, Pete?

Perambulating Pete (gloomily)—Well, when de New York police justices used to give a feller half an hour to get out of de city, he could walk over de bridge to Brooklyn, but now he'll have to raise three cents, somehow, to get across de ferry to New Jersey!—Puck.

PISO'S CURE FOR
CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS.
Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists.
CONSUMPTION

The Sunday School.

FOURTH QUARTERLY REVIEW.

LESSON 13, DECEMBER 26, 1897.
Titles and Golden Texts.

Golden Text for the Quarter: Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee the crown of life.—Rev. 2:10.

1. PAUL'S LAST JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM.

I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.—Acts 21:13.

2. PAUL A PRISONER AT JERUSALEM.

If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed.—1 Pet. 4:16.

3. PAUL BEFORE THE ROMAN GOVERNOR.

Fear thou not; for I am with thee.—Isa. 41:10.

4. PAUL BEFORE KING AGRIPPA.

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.—Matt. 10:32.

5. PAUL'S VOYAGE AND SHIPWRECK.

Be of good cheer; for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.—Acts 27:25.

6. PAUL IN MELITA AND ROME.

We know that all things work together for good to them that love God.—Rom. 8:28.

7. PAUL'S MINISTRY IN ROME.

I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth.—Rom. 1:16.

8. THE CHRISTIAN ARMOR.

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.—Eph. 6:10.

9. SALUTARY WARNINGS.

Be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.—1 Pet. 4:7.

10. CHRIST'S HUMILITY AND EXALTATION.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.—Phil. 2:5.

11. PAUL'S LAST WORDS.

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.—2 Tim 4:7.

12. JOHN'S MESSAGE ABOUT SIN AND SALVATION.

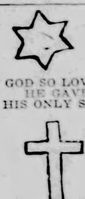
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins.—1 John 1:9.

13. REVIEW.

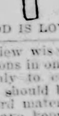
God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.—John 3:16.

Review Hints for the Intermediate Teacher.

In this holiday week, while the children are so joyous with Christmas festivities, must we ignore the review for the last quarter? We might let different scholars take part in repeating the dear old story once again, asking them about the shining glory of the sky at midnight, the music, the listening shepherds, the infant child. A silver star may be pinned on the blackboard above the cross, and other words, as the appreciation of the Golden Text is unfolded.



GOD SO LOVED
HE GAVE
HIS ONLY SON.



GOD IS LOVE.

To give a review wisely, it should embrace many lessons in one, but to attempt too much is only to confuse. More is known than should be used, but it is intended to afford material for selection. Scholars who have kept note-books will be well prepared for review. The Golden Text may be recited and questions asked. Who so loved? What did he so love? Was it the beautiful green earth that he made he loved, or the people in the world? What does the word "whosoever" prove? With what gift did God show his love to every one in all the world? In what form did the Son of God come to the earth? As a child, now was he a perfect example? Was it because the Son loved the world that he said, "I come to do thy will, O God?" In what way did the Son give up his life? Who was called the Apostle of Love? John struck the key-note of God's plan to save the world through Jesus Christ his Son in the marvelous name he gave the Father when he wrote, "God is Love." It was John who recorded the words of our Golden Text. Do you know who first spoke them? Who else could so well know why the Father gave the Son as the Son who came down from heaven to teach the way to God and to eternal life? This Golden Text holds the truth which all the apostles preached after Jesus had ascended to heaven. Who preached the sermon on the day of Pentecost? He taught that all should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Of whom did Peter and John say "There is none other name given?" Whose love filled Stephen's heart as he prayed for his murderers? What cruel persecutor of Christians was changed to a lover of Christ? He preached everywhere for years of the love of God the Father, and of the cross of Christ, saying, "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." The characteristics of Paul were given in the review of the third quarter, and it was shown how Paul let his light shine. These may be mentioned by such scholars as remember or all of them as time is given. Perhaps some of the class copied the blackboard outline of that review. For the fourth quarter the Golden Texts furnish proof of the Apostle's preaching of salvation "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Of these Golden Texts seven are the words of Paul, two the words of Jesus, one quoted from Isaiah. How were they fulfilled to Paul in prison? Two texts are the words of Peter the apostle, one from one of the letters of John. Can you repeat all these texts? Most of the lessons may be recalled by questioning upon such topics as these:

Paul at Jerusalem.—Why was he so anxious to go to Jerusalem when his friends warned him of evil?

A Prisoner.—Why was he arrested in Jerusalem? Where was he imprisoned?

Before Felix.—In Cesarea he was still a prisoner, but permitted to answer for himself. Who trembled as he heard of righteousness and judgment to come? Did fear make Felix truly repent?

Before King Agrippa.—Before whom did Paul preach of the resurrection? What did the king say of being persuaded to be a Christian? What did Paul desire for king and people?

Shipwrecked.—Why was Paul sent a prisoner to Rome? How many days was the ship in a storm? How was Paul cheered, and how did he cheer others? What became of the ship?

Melita.—How did the people show kindness to the shipwrecked crowd on the shore? What happened to Paul that surprised the natives? How did Paul show kindness to the sick on the island? How long before the travelers started again for Rome?

In Rome.—How was Paul differently treated from the other prisoners? How did he preach the gospel in Rome? What letters did he write in the two years he was there? What, that was constantly in sight, helped him to teach of putting on the whole armor of God?

Paul's Last Words.—To whom did Paul give his last charge? What did he say of the course which he had finished? How did he charge Timothy to preach the word? What reward did Paul confidently expect? Had he any doubt as to his deliverance from all evil and a place in the heavenly kingdom? To whom did he give all glory and praise? He would the words and work of Paul, Peter, John, and the other apostles, all prove the truth of our review Golden Text, "God so loved the world"? Can your heart respond, "We love him, because he first loved us"? Can you claim as for your own the words of the beloved Son, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you . . . Abide in my love"?—Faith Latimer, in Sunday School Times.

STREET TOILETTE.

Persian Lamb and Plush Cape. Striped Cheviot Suit.

Suggestions for the cold season are not wanting, and probably the short cape is as satisfactory as any loose outside garment if made of plush, fur, velvet, Astrachan, silk or cloth, and a combination is recommended for a very dressy effect. The toilet illustrated is arranged from designs taken from a late number of The Delineator. The front and back of the cape fit the figure perfectly and the sides are circular, while the new Lafayette collar is a specially stylish feature. The

skirt is of the seven-gored variety and is known as the plain flare-skirt. It is made of striped cheviot and the outside gores are slightly sprung at the lower part. The back gores are plaited and fall with charming grace in flute-like folds, and the flare at the bottom is in keeping with late demands of fashion. Any of the new weaves will be selected for the suit, and the cape will be made up in a combination, as suggested, or of one material throughout. The left hat is trimmed becomingly with velvet, wings and ribbon.

QUEER BICYCLE.

A cycle invented by Mikael Pedersen is attracting considerable attention at the national show now in progress at the Crystal Palace in London.

The frame is constructed on the cantilever principle, consists of 21 perfect triangles, is made entirely of steel and will take any sort of wheels, spindles or chains; if necessary

MRS. PEDERSEN AND THE PEDERSEN MACHINE.

the machine can be arranged as a chainless cycle. A feature of the machine is that not a hard saddle, but a "hammock" or "network" seat, which can never become hard or too wide at any point, although it gives the rider more space than any other seat can possibly afford. Mrs. Pedersen, whose portrait here reproduced, is said to be an extremely graceful rider.

A Weak Stomach.

"I have been troubled for two years with a weak stomach. I tried numerous prescriptions but found no relief. After taking the first bottle of Hood's Sarsaparilla I felt much better. I continued its use, and when I had taken three bottles I felt perfectly well." Mrs. M. H. Wright, Akron, Ohio.

HOOD'S PILLS are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla. Easy and yet efficient.

ODD ARCHITECTURE.

Every village in Burmah has two or three pagodas. These are placed on a hill where such a site is available.

A remarkable and probably unique site for an edifice, sacred or otherwise, is shown in the picture, which represents the pagoda near Sagaing, in lower Burmah. The large

PAGODA IN BURMAH.

spherical mass of rock on which the pagoda stands is about thirty feet in diameter and perched on the edge of a precipice, over which it seems about to fall every moment. The pagoda itself is of solid brickwork, about twelve feet high and surmounted by a small gilt htee, or sacred umbrella.

Coughs and Colds. Those who are suffering from Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat, etc., should try BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES. Sold only in boxes.

She Runs the Elevator.

The custom house elevator in San Francisco is run by a woman, Mrs. Caroline Morse. She is the widow of a sailor and by means of her work supports her family. Appointed under ex-President Harrison's administration, she was deposed during Cleveland's second term, but San Francisco demanded her reinstatement at once.—Baltimore American.

Family of Frauds.

"We are a family of Frauds."
They said with low salaams,
When chaffing other household gods—
"We are the pillow Shams."

SUBSTITUTION

the FRAUD of the day.

See you get Carter's.

Ask for Carter's.

Insist and demand

Carter's Little Liver Pills

The only perfect

Liver Pill.

Take no other.

Even if

Solicited to do so.

Beware of imitations

of Same Color Wrapper.

RED.

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SALESMEN WANTED. The Salary Centennial Mfg. Co., 65 to 71 Adams St., Chicago, Ill.

GOLD RINGS FREE. 18K Rolled Gold plate, warranted, to any one who can sell 6 packages Lemon Cream Tablets at 25 cents each. Write and we will send them postpaid. When sold send us the money and we will send you the

TOLEDO BLADE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1897.

Largest and Best Weekly Published, and Largest Circulation!

TOLEDO BLADE CO.....Publishers.
ROBINSON LOCKE.....Editor.

THE BLADE is a weekly newspaper for intelligent American citizens. It aims to cover, each week, all news topics of real interest to all wide-awake and thinking men. Its editorial page is the strongest and most thoughtful of any in the United States. Its special departments are carefully edited, and the whole paper is intended for the homes of the free American people.

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CIRCULATION LAST WEEK: 151,000

TO SUBSCRIBERS WHOSE TIME EXPIRES THIS MONTH.

But two weeks remain in which to accept the very favorable proposition for renewal. Remember the proposition must be accepted before Jan. 1st, and the opportunity will not come again. We have had many letters of regret from those who carelessly let pass our October proposition until it was too late.

THE BLADE CHINA SETS.

Under the new offer, The Blade china sets are having a remarkable sale, and are giving the highest satisfaction. Those who have obtained them are delighted with their fine quality and their beauty. They are the best quality we have ever offered, and the price is lower than ever before, and lower than such goods can be purchased for in any other way. Don't hesitate to send in your orders, for you will be delighted with the goods. Read the advertisement elsewhere in this paper.

OUR NEW WATCH OFFER.

Our readers will find a new watch list given in the Publishers' Column, on the fifth page of this paper. The list embraces both cheap grades and standard watches, and, though it is not long, gives sufficient variety to suit all. Order by name; not by number. Read the offer throughout, and you will know exactly what the watches are.

HAWAII WILL BE ANNEXED.

There is a vast deal of misinformation in current Washington news concerning the chances of Hawaiian annexation. An effort is making to have the people suppose there is no hope of the treaty's ratification by the Senate, and therefore that the whole scheme is dead.

To this end alleged polls of the Senate have been reported. These are not trustworthy, however. Names of Senators appear in the list of anti-annexationists who are really in the doubtful column. That is, while they may doubt the wisdom of annexation, they will vote for it if a good party reason for such a course can be shown.

However, even if the Senate will not furnish the requisite two-thirds which are required by the ratification of a treaty, that will not give a death-blow to the annexation project. A concurrent resolution for annexation according to the terms of the treaty will be introduced in the House. It will require a simple majority of both houses to pass it, not a two-thirds vote. A majority is assured in the Senate as well as in the House, and the signature of the President is of course certain, as he took strong ground in favor of annexation in his message.

The House committee on foreign affairs has already appointed a sub-committee, one of whose duties is to prepare such a joint resolution, which will be all ready should the Senate fail to ratify the treaty. Hence it is pretty certain that, unless there is a decided change of opinion among many Senators and Representatives, the annexation of Hawaii will be accomplished.

THE NEXT CENSUS.

It devolves upon the present Congress to provide for taking the next census, in 1900. The necessary authorization and appropriations must be made in order that the census officials may be appointed, and working plans be matured, in time for the work which will begin in June of that year.

The matter should be taken hold of in a business way, and provision be made for the collection of nothing but the standard facts of population and industrial progress. The scope of the decennial census should be narrowed, in the interests of promptitude. Leave all other inquiries, such as those which burdened the census of 1890, to the statistical bureaus of the departments, and let us know the essential census facts within three months of the date of beginning the work.

For the last two or three decades, the final results of the census have not been printed, and therefore made available to the public, until four or five years after the census was taken. This is all wrong. Figures five years old are comparatively valueless. Let us have the essential facts, and have them at once, and let other matters go.

THE AUSTRIAN DEADLOCK.

It is believed the Emperor Francis Joseph has decided to end the deadlock between the Austrian ministry and the reichsrath, by proroguing the latter body indefinitely. To dissolve it and have an election for new members, in the present pitch of popular excitement, would be simply to prolong the trouble.

He also is credited with the purpose of prolonging the present compact with Hungary by an imperial decree, as it is impossible to get the reichsrath to pass the necessary resolution. This will be acquiesced in by Hungary, it is believed —for she has more to gain by remaining a part of the dual empire than by securing absolute independence.

These steps on the part of the Emperor are extraordinary, not to say revolutionary. But the intelligent friends of free government support them, as they will tell, in the long run, in favor of constitutional freedom, in obviating the grave danger which threatens from the violence and lack of common sense evinced by the warring factions in the reichsrath itself.

Gov. Pingree's left eye is squinting toward the Senatorial seat occupied by Mr. Burrows.

Great Britain is generally in favor of arbitration when she has nothing to lose.

St. Louis has a record of fifty divorces in two days. Chicago should waken up.

NANCY ALLISON M'KINLEY.

The mother of the President has passed away at the ripe age of eighty-nine years, and the whole people of the United States sympathize with her illustrious son, whose filial love and care endeared him to every father and mother in the land.

Mrs. McKinley was a descendant of the hardy pioneers who laid the foundations of the American republic in patriotism, endurance and piety. Her family was English, and her ancestors emigrated first to Virginia, thence to Western Pennsylvania, and finally into Ohio, being numbered among the early settlers of this state.

She was a typical American woman, frugal and industrious, with a deep and abiding religious sense. Intellectually she was strong, and her son, the President, appears to have inherited his mental make-up from herself. She had a deep feeling of patriotism, and was altogether a woman of the type that has given to America its strongest and greatest men.

She is one of the few American mothers who have lived to see their sons reach the pinnacle of political power—the Presidency. She shared this honor with the mothers of Grant and Garfield, and held the esteem and loving good will of the people of the United States to fully as great a degree as did Mother Garfield.

A mother in Israel has passed away, leaving behind her the record of a life well spent, which makes her an exemplar to all true American women. She was content to do her duty as she found it, to be a helpmeet to her husband, and a true mother to her children. She was not tinctured with the restless desire, too common in this generation, to assume the cares and responsibilities of men, to the neglect of those equally important duties which belong to women alone. Would that America had more like Nancy Campbell Allison McKinley!

THE INDIAN TERRITORY.

The anomaly of an independent barbaric nation existing in the midst of the territory of the United States should be no longer maintained. It is dependent, yet independent; it denies to United States citizens any and all political rights, and makes no provision of law for protection of their persons and property. It is an absurdity on its face, but an existent fact, nevertheless—and the anomaly should be swept away at once by the national government.

The Five Civilized Tribes, residing in the Indian Territory, are guaranteed the right to govern themselves, and to exclude all white persons from the lands they occupy. There are 45,000 of these Indians, and they control almost 26,000,000 acres of land—an area equal to Ohio. They have exclusive title to this land, the most of which is very fertile; and they have the power to exclude all whites therefrom.

However, by invitation of or arrangement with the tribal authorities, there are nearly a quarter of a million of white people in the Territory. They have established homes, built towns, some which reach 5,000 in population, and have invested large sums in business. They have developed the country. But they can take no part in the government, and their thousands of children, born in the Territory, are not entitled to school privileges. There is no provision of tribal law, or courts for the due protection of their lives and property. Furthermore, according to the Secretary of the Interior, a great landed Indian aristocracy rules the Territory, and the common Indians have no voice in the conduct of public affairs.

Theoretically the whites in the Territory have no rights. They are entitled to nothing but what the Indians grant them. They put themselves voluntarily in this situation, by coming into the Territory. But the situation has grown absurd, as well as intolerable. A quarter of a million of enterprising white people are practically at the mercy of 45,000 half-civilized Indians.

President McKinley, in his message, recommends that Congress shall abolish this imperium in imperio. He asks for the abolition of tribal government and the allotment of lands in severalty, before all of the lands pass into the hands of the little clique of red aristocrats. It is manifest destiny that this will be done. It must come. There is no reason for delay, nor for allowing the present anomalous and absurd condition to be maintained any longer.

MUST MARRY FOR LOVE.

Women who marry old soldiers of the civil war will hereafter marry for love alone, and not for the sake of a pension after their veteran husbands are dead. The pension appropriation bill, reported to the House to-day, contains a provision which provides that hereafter no woman who marries an old soldier will be eligible to a pension on his death.

Pension Commissioner Evans appeared before the committee, and urged strongly the insertion of this amendment. His arguments prevailed, and it went into the bill. And it will pass. There is no doubt of that.

The fact is, the entire pension system is in danger, because of the growing burden. It takes almost half the revenues of the government to pay the annual pension bill, and there are 200,000 applications now waiting for the needed money in order that they may be granted. The war has been over for thirty-two years—almost the life of a generation—and yet the pension bill grows year by year.

That something must be done has been evident for several years. The great mass of the people are growing restive under the burden. If it becomes too great, an issue will be made in Congressional elections which will result in throwing it off. Pension Commissioner Evans is wise in taking ground against its increase through marriage of young women to old men, merely for the sake of a pension.

The Senate is enforcing its rule prohibiting the sale of liquor in the Senate wing of the capitol at Washington. Bibulous Senators will have to keep private bottles in their committee-rooms.

Out in Kansas the newspapers embellish their accounts of weddings by giving a list of the young men the brides have refused. This makes the society column very readable.

Twenty-five thousand wood workers in Rhode Island have received an increase of 20 per cent in wages. The Dingley law is advertising itself.

The opera-bouffe Haytian incident is ended. Hayti should now provide stringently against allowing German half-breeds to get drunk.

THE DINGLEY REVENUES.

It is a fact that the revenues so far under the Dingley tariff law are not equal to the expenditures; but it does not follow that the measure will not eventually produce sufficient revenue to meet all demands of the government. That is as yet an unsolved problem. It will take a longer experience to decide the matter conclusively. Meanwhile, it is the part of wisdom to provide more revenue, even if the law for that purpose shall make it apply for only a limited term—one or two years.

The enormous volume of foreign goods rushed into the country in the closing months of the Wilson law, to take advantage of its low duties, prevents the Dingley law from having a fair test. It has been in operation but four months, and the revenue from its workings shows a gradual increase. Here are the actual receipts from customs for that time:

August	$ 6,387,702.84
September	7,343,100.28
October	9,713,494.62
November	9,850,025.00
Total	$34,474,322.74

The difficulty of framing a tariff law arises from the fact that the volume of imports as a variable quantity. The demand varies, and there is no way of estimating what the imports for any given period in the future will be.

Had the volume of imported goods been as large, during the four months given in the above showing, as they were during the same four months of 1892, the revenue received would amount to $102,710,600, or $68,236,278 more than they actually were.

Had the imports for that time been as large as for the same four months of 1896, the receipts would have been $87,072,283, or $22,597,961 more than they actually were.

In 1896, the larger imports were due to the Wilson law. We imported foreign goods which we now manufacture. But in 1892 the McKinley law was in force, and the volume of imports was due to the prosperity of the country. People had plenty of money, and bought freely of foreign goods, especially articles of luxury.

These facts show the difficulty of gauging the revenues which a tariff law will produce. It may be that within a few months the Dingley law will produce ample revenue. Again, it may be that it will not. The wise thing to do is to enact a law for additional revenue, either limiting its operation to a specified term, or leaving it to Congress to repeal it when it is no longer needed. An additional tax of $1 a barrel on beer will add $33,000,000 a year to the revenues, and nobody will feel it.

TWO YEARS' GRACE GIVEN.

The interstate commerce commission has decided to extend for two years the time given the railroads to equip all trains with automatic couplers and power brakes.

This ruling is a decisive victory for the railway brotherhoods. It is just what the officials of these organizations asked for, and it ought not to embarrass the railroads.

In this matter, the officials of the brotherhoods took a conservative position, fully recognizing the fact that the finances of the railroads had been seriously affected by the business depression of the past four years. They argued that there was a sufficient reason for an extension of two years, but that five years would be unreasonable. The interstate commerce commission saw reason in the brotherhood's arguments and made its ruling accordingly.

This will bring about increased activity in the car repair shops of the railroads of the country. It will give employment to hundreds of men in Toledo and thousands in the United States. It is true that it may be almost a hardship to some of the weaker lines to come within the law, but it will greatly decrease the number of damage suits in the future against the railroads.

Railroading in the future will not be nearly so dangerous as it has been in the past. The trainman and the switchman of the future will be strangers to the perils of making a coupling with the old-style drawbars. The measure is the most important railroad law that Congress has passed in recent years.

MILD DECEMBER WEATHER.

The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle again refers to its theory of the so-called heated hemisphere of the sun, and reminds readers that it being now fully presented to the earth, the mild weather predicted for early December has prevailed for several days.

When this hemisphere was turned toward us in October and November, no sun-psots were observed; now they have reappeared. A very large group of spots has within a few days turned into view on the sun's eastern limit, which that paper says is in the same region as the great spots visible last January, and it predicts as follows:

It will be remembered that early January of this year was mild, and that the great group of sun spots visible to the unassisted eye was turned toward us. Should mild weather again be experienced in early January, 1898, the influence of this great solar disturbance upon the weather will have been traced for a year. And we are quite confident that there will be a season of warmth in early January; it is also probable that a sun-spot group will again be seen without optical aid. No confident forecast can be made for late December because the disturbance soon to pass from view, and the one following in which no spots have recently developed, may be tending to quiescence. But if they show former energy late December will be stormy with constant tendency toward mild weather.

The return next year of several periodic comets to perihelion may have some influence upon the sun. It will certainly be interesting to note the weather changes.

When Mr. Bryan reached Mexico, he promptly exchanged $500 in United States money for $1,000 in Mexican money. He thus had actual proof that the term "dollar" does not mean a fixed and invariable value, but that its value depends on the price of the metal of which the unit coin is made. If the Nebraska statesman gets this fact fixed in his mind, he will be able to see a good many fallacies in the gabble he has uttered within the past two years.

An order has been issued that the English troops in Ireland shall sharpen their bayonets. There being no known reason for this bit of warlike preparation, all Ireland is in a ferment over it.

It is a fact of much significance that the Democratic party made its poorest showing, in the state elections of 1897, in those states wherein the silver plank of 1896 was made an issue.

"French" sardines will be scarce this year. A dispatch from down East says the catch of young herring is light off the Maine coast.

The Madrid papers are displeased at the President's message. Well, who cares, here in the United States?

BRITISH MARKETS INVADED.

The Cincinnati Commercial Tribune notes, as a striking and interesting fact, that "the first year of President McKinley's term is signalized by the export to Europe of American tin plate," an industry which was created in the United States by the law bearing his name—the tariff of 1890—"and framed under his management as chairman of the House committee of Ways and Means."

The Blade has no desire to minimize the importance of this fact; but it desires to point out that this is but one of a series of similar facts, going to show the coming triumph of the United States in the industries of the world. No less a person than Richard Cobden, the father of English free trade, saw from afar the danger to the supremacy of Great Britain as a manufacturing nation which was to come from the conditions then existing in the United States; and his free trade policy was but a method of guarding against it, so far as possible.

More than fifty years ago Cobden pointed out that "it is to the industry, the economy and the peaceful policy of America, and not to the growth of Russia, that politicians and statesmen of whatever creed ought to direct their anxious attention, for it is by these and not by the efforts of barbarian force that the power and greatness of England are in danger of being superseded." The observation stands to-day as a demonstration of the acuteness of observation and logical power possessed by the apostle of free trade.

Nor has Cobden been the only one among British publicists to see the coming danger. Lord Lytton, thirty years ago, in his "Coming Race," spoke of the notable industrial progress of the United States as one "in which Europe enviously seeks her model and tremblingly foresees her doom." To Englishmen whose powers of observation were not blinded by insular prejudice, the menace of our competition has always been recognized; and never was it so clearly in evidence as it is now.

The fact that American tin plate is now sold in English markets does not stand alone. At the present time Great Britain is importing not only our tin plate, but our pig iron, our wire, our agricultural machinery, our machine tools, our bicycles, and many other manufactured products of the United States. Even British authorities admit that our competition has come to stay; and to them our competition overshadows all other industrial problems, except that of labor, which is now brought directly home to every British manufacturer by the struggle inaugurated by the engineering strike.

THE COBDEN CLUB.

On the last day of November the annual meeting of the once-famous Cobden Club was held in London, and there were present but twelve men and one woman, making the total thirteen, an unlucky number, according to the superstitious. The total income of the year was but £668 —another evidence of the decadence of the great free trade organization.

The Cobden Club was founded to promote absolute free trade the world over. It is distinctively British in its aims. That country, when the club was organized, held the world's primacy in manufacturing and in commerce. The club was organized to perpetuate these conditions, and to make Great Britain the world's industrial center. All the remainder of the globe was to furnish raw material for British mills and factories and shops to turn into the finished products, and then was to buy these back, leaving the profits of the manufacture in English hands, and the carrying of products to and fro to English vessels.

Naturally, universal free trade was a pre-requisite for the realization of this dream of industrial and commercial primacy. It would be essential that no other country should impose duties on British imports. So the Cobden Club was founded to promote universal free trade, for the promotion of British manufacturing and British trade, and the consequent reduction of the rest of the world to a condition of dependence.

The club was for years a power. It circulated documents proving conclusively—to the British mind—that it was the duty of the rest of the world to pay tribute to England. The free trade agitation in this country was the direct result of the Cobden Club's efforts, and it took our experience with the Wilson law, involving the hard times period from 1893 to the present year, to convince the American people of the fallacy of the rainbow theories of the free traders.

The Cobden Club's efforts, however, have been unsuccessful, so far as the world is concerned. Protective tariffs have been established by all civilized nations. Even England's colonies, the world over, practice protection—except, we believe, New South Wales, the least prosperous of the Australian colonies. The main feature of the annual report, read at the meeting on Nov. 30, was the failure of the "imperial federation" of British colonies—a Zollverein scheme, which should establish free trade among them and with England, and have protective tariffs against other nations. But the scheme would not work. Even her colonies refuse to allow England to prosper to their own detriment.

Protection is the only way through which any country can achieve industrial independence. It must manufacture within its own borders all that its people need, so far as circumstances will permit it to be done. The world realizes this, and England's supremacy in industry is slipping away from her. Her manufacturers are alarmed because German, Belgian and American manufacturers are making inroads on their trade, even in England, and there is a steadily growing sentiment there in favor of protection against these rivals. The decadence of the Cobden Club marks the failure of the dream of British supremacy over the world in industry and commerce.

The Pittsburg Times groups together a number of striking facts bearing upon the steady revival of prosperity in the following pregnant paragraph:

Yesterday 2,200 men in the iron ore mines of Michigan were given an increase of wages, with the announcement that work should be steady all winter. Yesterday nearly 7,000 men were given an increase of from 10 to 20 per cent in wages in the vicinity of Wilkesbarre. Yesterday a new schedule of wages took effect in the textile mills of Rhode Island, involving about 25,000 operatives. These are the tidings that have been coming for weeks, and which come more abundantly as the year grows older. It is a repetition of the announcement of increased wages at local mines, of the increase in miners' wages, of the increased demand for men on the railroads, and of more employment and better wages everywhere.

Congress will pass a bill to prohibit all citizens of the United States from engaging in pelagic sealing. Then we will be in a better position to ask other nations to stop seal-killing in Behring sea.

Hanna received an aggregate plurality of 10,962 on the vote for Senators, and an aggregate plurality of 6,313 on the vote for Representatives. What about Mr. Hanna not carrying Ohio?

The President stands manfully by the civil service law. Members who expect to attack that measure will probably change their minds.

The country is now holding its breath waiting to hear from Jerry Simpson.

COMMENT OF THE WEEK.

A Good Week.

In the general industrial situation in this country there has been great strength during the past week. Exports of wheat and other products have continued to force down the price of foreign exchange, and if the movement goes on there will be imports of gold in December—a rare and encouraging phenomenon.

Railroad earnings for November justify the rise in the prices of railroad securities, for they have been, on roads reporting in the United States, 16.8 per cent larger than for the same period of last year. In each of the last three months they have been greater than in the same periods of any previous year.

Cotton is higher; so is wool, and the prices are not the result of market rigging. Even the spurt in wheat in Chicago is largely attributed to European contracts. Atlantic exports of wheat and flour were 4,312,137 bushels, against 2,975,651 forth e same week last year.

Foreign contracts are pending for 40,000 tons of steel rails.

Collections are reported easy in the South, and there is a heavy export trade on the Pacific coast. Bank clearings at 87 cities in the United States and Canada show an average increase over the same week last year of 3.9 per cent. In only nine cities of the list, and these cities of the smaller class, has there been a decrease.

Altogether it has been a week of promise exceptional for this season of the year.

The Stock Market.

While the stock market for nearly a fortnight has been exhibiting more or less improvement in speculative activity and in prices, greater cause for congratulation can be found in the continuance of the demand for bonds, and the decided widening of the investment market. This latter movement, which began some weeks ago, was confined at first to governments, municipal obligations and the "gilt-edge" varieties of railroad mortgages. The last week however, witnessed an extension of its scope to other classes of bonds, and more particularly to the new issues of a safe character created in connection with recent railroad organizations. This has not been accompanied, however, by any decline in the choice securities since government fours a few days ago made a new record as to price by touching 120, and prices for the high-grade securities are correspondingly well maintained. It is rather to be concluded that the supply of the better kind of securities is becoming exhausted, or that they have reached a level at which the income return is seriously diminished. The present demonstration would further indicate a growth of confidence on the part of investors in the security market, which with the decided increase of dealings in bonds may be the precursor of a wider and more active general speculation in securities.

First Week of Congress.

Congress convened promptly on December 6, and the business of the session was started without the delay which attends the usual preliminary work of organization. Early as it is in the session, a plan of operation seems to have been agreed upon by the leaders of the House. According to this programme, the appropriation bills are to have the right of way, and after they are disposed of, unless some unforeseen conditions should intervene, a bankruptcy measure will be considered. As regards the first-mentioned bills, an effort will be made by the responsible leaders to keep the appropriations down to an economical basis. Chairman Cannon of the committee on appropriations directed attention on Thursday to the fact that the estimates for the fiscal year 1899 show a deficit of $21,000,000. In particular, he reminded the House that it seemed likely that the expenditures for pensions for that year would exceed the estimates. He warned the members that the large anticipatory importations under the tariff would keep the revenue from customs down to the minimum, and he appealed to his colleagues to see to it that while the public service was sufficiently supplied with money not one dollar should be appropriated which was not absolutely necessary for the best interests of the public service. This was a needed warning, for the tendency to swell the appropriations has been too pronounced of late.

First Appropriation Bill.

The House has already gotten through with one of the regular appropriations. After a long debate, which covered a wide range, the pension appropriation bill was passed on Friday. It carries $141,263,880. During the debate the civil service law was vigorously assailed. In talking of government receipts and expenditures, Mr. Dingley ventured the prediction that the present fiscal year would end with a surplus in the treasury of $10,000,000.

The Bankruptcy Bill.

As has been intimated above a bankruptcy measure is among those which are to have the right of way in the House. A bill has, it appears, already been agreed upon. It has been framed by Mr. Henderson, of Iowa, and while its provisions have not been made generally known, it is learned that it follows in its main lines the provisions of the Torrey bill, which has been so many years waiting for the favorable consideration of Congress. It will provide for both voluntary and involuntary bankruptcy, but it has been modified in some particulars to obviate criticisms directed against certain features of the original Torrey measure. It seems superfluous for The Blade, so long an energetic advocate of the enactment of a national bankruptcy law, to say that it regards the adoption of uniform insolvency legislation as one of the most important steps which can be taken by Congress in the direction of safeguarding commercial morality in the United States. The measure which forms the basis of the present bill has probably received more consideration than any other similar measure ever submitted for legislative action before, and it is a matter for wonder that it has not long ago found a place upon the statute book.

The Twelfth Census.

Already steps are being taken to put the preparatory work of the twelfth census in train to be done. A bill has been framed which provides for the appointment of a director, who is authorized to appoint expert statisticians to assist in arranging the necessary preliminary work. Under the provisions of the bill, the employes of the office are to be withdrawn from the operation of the civil service regulations. If the purpose of this feature of the bill is what it appears on the surface, it can only be regarded as furnishing another strong argument in favor of the contention of those who have for some years advocated the establishment of a permanent census bureau. There is no sound reason why the taking of the decennial census should not be made a part of the work of a continuing governmental office, with a permanent staff which might form the nucleus of a force, to be enlarged when necessary, for the actual work of census-taking. It is of less consequence what the name of such an office should be, though perhaps it would be preferable to designate it and to make it in fact a permanent central statistical bureau, in whose work the taking of the census would be only an incident, though doubtless the most important.

Currency Legislation.

There is much fear expressed at Washington that currency or financial legislation will not be pressed for passage for the present. This is understood to be owing to the assumed difficulty of reconciling the many divergent views on financial subjects represented in the committee on Banking and Currency. It will take some time to determine whether a practicable agreement can be arrived at among the members. If not, perhaps the Ways and Means committee may take up the question; but it is thought by the leaders of the House that for the present, and until it can be determined whether definite action is possible, it would be better not to agitate the matter. Meanwhile the Monetary commission, which has been considering the financial and currency needs of the country with a view to formulating a practicable plan of reform, has addressed a circular to bankers and others specially interested in a wise solution, announcing that it is upon the eve of concluding its labors and submitting a plan for financial reorganization, which it hopes to see supported by those concerned in reforming a defective financial system. The commission urges that in case the main features of the plan should be found commendable, those favoring should as far as possible waive preferences in matters of detail. The Congressional leaders need to be reminded that the time is not propitious for a policy of postponement or inaction.

The Consular Reports.

After January 1 next, the miscellaneous reports of consular and diplomatic officers upon commerce and industries in foreign countries will be printed immediately after their receipt at the Department of State, and will be issued in the form of advance sheets. This change, which has just been authorized by Secretary of State Sherman, is intended for the benefit of trade organizations, business firms, the newspaper press, etc. It will result in practically the daily publication of these reports, except on Sundays and legal holidays, and it cannot be doubted that the wide and prompt distribution of the information furnished in this way will be helpful to the merchant and manufacturing interests of the United States. The publication of these reports will be under the direction of the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, whose present very efficient chief, Mr. Frederic Emory, is keenly alive to the importance of the element of timeliness in getting commercial information before the public. The publication of the regular monthly series of consular reports will be continued as heretofore.

Increased Money Circulation.

Still another increase is shown in the volume of circulation as compared with a month ago. According to the treasury statement, recently issued, there has been a net increase for the month of November of $14,251,634. There were only two items showing a decrease, one of $88,700 in gold certificates and the other $178,068 in national bank notes. The increase comprised $7,220,795 in gold coin, $1,083,983 in standard silver dollars, $1,386,116 in subsidiary silver, $460,048 in silver certificates, $2,916,443 in treasury notes, $3,186,002 in United States notes and $355,000 in currency certificates of 1872. The statement showing the changes in money and bullion in the treasury for the month shows a net decrease of $5,936,008. The increases comprise $416,017 in standard silver dollars and $5,153,843 in gold bullion. The decrease comprise $1,451,840 in gold coin, $789,448 in subsidiary silver, $4,436,443 in treasury notes of 1890, $3,186,002 in United States notes to correspond with the increase in circulation referred to above, and $920,005 in national bank notes, together with $1,322,130 in silver bullion.

Comparison With Last Year.

As compared with the corresponding date one year ago there has been an increase of over $27,700,000 in gold coin; standard silver dollars show an increase of over $2,700,000; subsidiary silver shows an increase of nearly $2,000,000; silver certificates exhibit a gain of over $16,900,000; treasury notes of 1890 an increase of over $24,500,000, and currency certificates of 1872 an increase of over $10,100,000. There were decreases in the amount of gold certificates and United States notes, the decrease in the first case amounting to nearly $1,300,000 and in the second case to $12,500,000. National bank notes show an increase of $2,000,000. The total volume of circulation as compared with December 1, 1896, shows an increase of over $74,000,000, the aggregate on December 1, 1897, being $1,721,084,338. On the basis of a population estimated by the treasury experts at 73,393,000, this volume would mean a per capita circulation of $23.39. This represents an increase of $0.16 per capita for the month and of $0.63 as compared with the corresponding date last year.

Is China to Be Divided?

Germany has dispatched on a voyage to China, a squadron of warships, under command of Prince Henry of Prussia, the admiral highest in command. These ships carry a full complement of sailors and more than the usual number of marines. Their destination is supposed to be Kaio-Chou—the fort and town seized recently by the German ships in the China station.

Four French cruisers are to be prepared for immediate dispatch to China. One of these ships is the Jean Bart, considered the finest of her class and as such sent to the United States to take a place in the great naval review that signalized the opening of the Columbian exposition.

It is known that Russia has well under way the trans-Siberian railroad, which is to connect the European and Asiatic dominions of that empire by a line from the Baltic to the Japan sea. The port of destination on the Japan sea is Vladivostock. In winter this port is inaccessible on account of ice. The Russians have arranged for a right of way through Chinese territory to the Yellow sea, which will give them a winter port.

The French control a part of the peninsula of Anam, in Indo-China, a province known as Cochin China. They have made movements which it was suspected are toward the acquisition of further territory in this neighborhood. The sphere of French influence is suspected to threaten all the provinces in Aram, the total population of which is 17,701,300. It is a desirable portion of Indo-China.

The objective point of the Russian railroad is on the northeast coast of China. It will pass through the province of Ghinking—the most northeastern of all the provinces. We have no information concerning its poulation, but it undobtedly numbers several millions. It adjoins Korea.

The German occupation at present is on the opposite side of the Yellow sea, in the province of Shantung, across the bay from Korea, and is in the vicinity of operations of the Japanese forces during the recent war with China. Shantung province has a population of 26,000,000.

It is said that Great Britain views these movements with concern. To re-establish her weight in Chinese affairs, and to make secure what she already holds there, a recent cession of all the islands about the coast of Hong Kong has been made to England.

The distance from Cochin China, held by the French, to Kaio-Chou, held by the Germans, is perhaps 2,000 miles. The Russians have treaty rights further to the north. Hong Kong, long held by the English, is intermediate between the French territory and the German landing place, Kaio-Chou.

No diplomatic representations have been made, so far as appears, objecting to any of these movements by European powers on Chinese territory. The occupation by Germany is apparently acquiesced in by England, Russia and France, whose respective footholds date back for a longer or shorter time. It looks as if there was a concord of purpose among them, a connivance at each other's movements, and it is conjectured that this connivance or concord of purpose contemplates a partition of Chinese territory. These is one thing in conflict with this theory—the reported willingness of China to pay a money indemnity to Germany whereupon Germany is to evacuate Kaio-Chou. The payment may not be made at the time set, and the kaiser may not care to have it paid—preferring, indeed, to retain the territory as being more to him than the money. At any rate he intends to hold the territory until the money is forthcoming at a given date, and to hold permanently if the indemnity is not paid.

GOING TO AFRICA AS MISSIONARIES.

The announcement that Prince Bernadotte, of Sweden and his wife are going to Africa to spend the rest of their lives as missionaries has created much comment and amusement throughout all Europe. Bernadotte is the second son of King Oscar of Swenden and Norway, and has a world-wide reputation as a religious enthusiast. His wife was Miss Ebba Munk, and before the marriage the prince, whose full name is Oscar Bernadotte, was forced to give up all claim to the throne because of wedding a woman who was not royal. The king changed his son's title to Count Wisborg and gave him an estate on the island of Gottland. The name of the estate is Fridthem. The former Miss Munk has lately been received into the warmest favor of Queen Sophia, who is herself most religious, and who made her daughter-in-law maid of honor. The withdrawal of the former prince and his wife from court is the culmination of a long-drawn-out disturbance in the Swedish court, and may mean the permanent separation of the count from his royal family. He was created admiral of the navy at the recent jubilee, and at once proposed the abolition of the sailors' grog. It is said that the queen has indorsed all of the religious views of her son and his wife. To cap the climax Prince Carl of Denmark and his recently wedded spouse, the Princess Ingeborg, announced that they would visit the Swedish court. Count Wisborg, knowing the proclivities of Carl to wild gayety in the nature of parties and lively times generally, quailed at the prospect and decided the only way out of it was to show his intense disapprobation of worldliness by proclaiming his intention to be from the court forever. His wife heartily sympathizes with her husband, and both are applauded by the queen. It is not likely that the prince will reconsider his determination. But Prince and Princess Carl will have a good time in Stockholm before the winter season is over.

LI HUNG CHANG'S PHYSICIAN

First Chinese Woman Physician Graduated in America.

Li Hung Chang has appointed a Chinese woman as his chief physician. She who has won this honor is Miss Ida King Eng, M. D., who is well known in this country as the only China woman who has graduated from an American medical college. Her alma mater was the Woman's Medical College, of Philadelphia, where she captured several prizes.

DR. HU KING ENG.

Dr. Hu King Eng has been very successful in the practice of medicine among her own people and she is highly esteemed even by the conservative mandarins. She will be the only delegate from China to the Women's Medical Convention to be held in London next June.

LUCK OF EDENHALL.

Those who have read Longfellow's ballad "The Luck of Edenhall," or the poem by Schiller from which the American took his theme, will be surprised to learn that the famous "luck," the "glass of crystal tale," is still in existence and was not shattered after all by its rash young owner. The legend goes that the "luck" was a magic cup given to an early Musgrave by St. Cuthbert. As long as the cup remained unbroken the Musgraves were to enjoy good fortune. The cup is at present the property of Sir R. G. Musgrave.

THE FAMOUS RELIC.

BABY'S SHOWER BATH.

The grown-ups and club men are not the only ones in this world who enjoy a shower bath, but baby who is bathed in his own little tub cannot use an ordinary rose, and in such cases the portable shower of English design, here shown, comes in handy.

In England, where the stationary wash-tub is not so ubiquitous as in America, this device

is of great convenience alike for young and old. When filled with water of the proper temperature a finger is held over an aperture in the handle, and when released the water falls in a fine spray and with considerable force.

BIGGEST PIPE EVER CAST

The largest pipe ever cast was turned out at Bessemer, near Birmingham, Ala., the other day. The pipe was 72 inches in diameter on the inside and 76½ inches in diameter outside the reinforcements, and 12 feet 6 inches long, over all, the metal in it weighed 20,000 pounds. The 72-inch pipe was molded for the New Orleans & Northeastern railroad, to be used for culverts under its tracks, says the Chicago Daily News. A small river ran flow through one of these pipes. It is as large as the great sewers of Paris, which were built of brick and stone.

CURRENT EVENTS.

It was 300 years ago in Florence, Italy, that the first grand opera was produced.

It is reported that Pierre Loti will definitely retire from the French navy soon and devote himself to literary work.

Edwin Dun, for many years United States minister in Japan, will open large mercantile houses in Yokohama and Kobe.

Mrs. Annie L. Diggs, the noted Populist of Kansas, who has long been a resident of Lease, has been appointed state librarian.

Septimus Winner, the composer of the song, "Listen to the Mocking Bird," died in 1835. He celebrated his golden wedding on the 5th of November.

Mr. Gladstone has been reading the new life of Tennyson, and says he feels absorbed when he compares his own mental powers with those of the great poet.

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone are expected to arrive to-day at Cannes, France, where they will spend the winter. Mr. Gladstone hopes that he will benefit there if his neuralgia.

Godstow, near Oxford, with the ruins of the nunnery where Henry II. first saw fair Rosamond and where Queen Eleanor put her to death, has just been sold at auction.

Gov. John G. Brady, of Alaska, advises inexperienced men who go to Klondike next week for at least the first year, and not to go at all unless they intend to stay four or five years.

President Faure, of France, has made several visits to the constructive works in progress for the 1900 exposition, and is particularly interested in the immense piers for the foundation for the great Alexander III bridge.

Queen Victoria will soon invest the Duke of Buccleuch with the ribbon and insignia of the Garter. The last Duke was a knight of the order for 58 years, having received his blue ribbon from Sir Robert Peel in 1839.

Ex-President James H. Fairchild, of Oberlin college, celebrated his 80th birthday on Thanksgiving day. At the time of his re-election, in 1866, he was said to be the oldest college president in point of length of service in the United States.

Count Teleki's volcano, at the south end of Lake Rudolph, seems to have blown up. Mr. Cavendish who has just returned from that part of Africa, reports that the crater in the site of the volcano is a deep rent in the ground, surrounded by heaps of slag and broken lava.

Lady Ann Coventry, of England, and Prince Dhuleep Singh, of India, are to be married December 29. The Coventrys were related to the ruler of Sikh, but the Indian government has agreed to settle upon the bride an annuity of $10,000.

Singers, actors and public speakers, since the introduction of the electric light, have less trouble with their voices, and are less liable to colds. Their throats are found to be less parched and they feel better. This is due to the air not being vitiated and the temperature more even.

If you wish to get an idea of the long time that has warned upon the quarry which Ireland has contributed to the palaces of Paris, look at the oak which the queen of Italy is looking at Muckross demesne, Killarney. Her majesty and her court can almost be accommodated beneath its branches to-day.

Governor O'Ferrall, in responding to a toast to organized militia at the banquet of the Virginia Society, said that he had responded to that toast 11 times since becoming governor, and could scarcely say anything new. Then he made an admirable address. The governor played football and baseball.

A large hall named after Paul Revere has been dedicated in Boston by the Charitable Mechanics' association. Revere was the founder and first president of the association, and the principal address at the dedicatory exercise was delivered by Frederic Jesse Brown, great-grandson of the patriot and former mayor of Boston.

In the reign of Edward III there were in Bristol, Eng., three brothers who were to present clothiers and woolen weavers, and whose family name was Blanket. The first person who manufactured that valuable material which has ever since been used by their name, and which was then used by peasants' clothing.

From the small island of St. Kilda, off Scotland, 20,000 young gannets and an immense number of eggs are annually collected. The latter are sold at 1 cent each, and the young birds at 2 cents each. The value of the feathers in obtaining its numbers do not diminish. Obviously soon birds must reach a great age or

Publishers' Column.

WATCHES BY MAIL.

The Blade offers its readers this season a new list of watches at less than ordinary retail prices, sent postpaid by mail on receipt of prices marked below. The list embraces two or three cheap but good watches, and three or four better grade of time keepers.

THE KNICKERBOCKER.

A stem winder and stem-setter, having all the modern appliances known to watchmakers' art. The case is solid nickel. It is made on the celebrated thin model plan. Remember, this is not a small clock, commonly called a watch by unscrupulous advertisers, but a highly jeweled nickel movement, made by one of the most celebrated watch manufacturers in America. It is guaranteed by the manufacturer, and if not found exactly as represented, this guarantee is assumed by us. A watch like this a generation ago would have cost $50, if it could have been produced, but the fact is it contains appliances unknown at that time. Each watch has been thoroughly adjusted, and will be sent in perfect running order.

Price $2.00
Same in gold filled hunting case, guaranteed 5 years 6.00

THE SETH THOMAS WATCH.

A genuine American watch, jeweled, and guaranteed an accurate time piece. Nickel, open face, stem wind and stem set, made on the celebrated thin model plan. Price, $4.00.

WALTHAM OR ELGIN, OPEN FACE.

Men's open face gold filled watch, either engraved or engine turned, with Waltham or Elgin works. In the works are seven jewels and all improvements, including expansion balance, plain regulator, etc. The manufacturers guarantee this case to wear 15 years. This watch is open face only, stem winder, pendant set. Price by registered mail, $11.50.

WALTHAM HUNTING CASE.

This watch is the celebrated thin model watch—we mean by thin model that it does not bulge the pocket out of shape or give people the impression that you are carrying a clock movement. The case is made of two plates of solid gold, so thick that they will last fifteen years. Between these plates is a thin sheet of stiff composition metal, the purpose of which is to protect the works from damage when the watch is pressed or struck. This feature saves many a bill for repairs—a great point for people at a distance from reliable watchmakers. The ring joints, thumb piece, and all parts subjected to constant wear are solid gold, which, of course, will wear for generations. The works contain compensation expansion balance, safety pinion, stem winding and pendant setting apparatus, and many other improvements. The movement is made by the celebrated Waltham Watch Co., and is perfect in construction and durability. This watch comes in hunting case only. Price, $15.00.

SOLID GOLD, LADIES' SIZE.

This watch is a handsomely engraved solid gold case, warranted 14k. U. S. assay. We use no foreign movements in this watch, but all are either Waltham or Elgin "American" movements according to the wish of the purchaser. The works are jeweled and have compensating balance and safety pinion. This watch represents the triumph of modern expert workmanship.

Each watch is a stem winder and setter, and has a tempered hair spring. Price, $20.

NICKEL SILVER TABLE WARE.

It is Better Than Plated Stuff and Saves Much Worry.

We are now enabled to offer to subscribers of The Blade (and to subscribers only, remember,) teaspoons, dessert spoons, tablespoons and forks, made of composition known as nickel silver, which so closely resembles solid silver that an expert might be deceived. It is indestructible, does not tarnish so easily as solid silver from exposure to the air, and it is finished in the same manner as the solid silver goods. The patterns are no thicker than solid silver.

Prices.

They are sent by registered mail, postpaid, at the following prices:

1 dozen teaspoons..... $1.25
½ dozen teaspoons..... .85
1 dozen tablespoons or forks..... 2.35
½ dozen tablespoons or forks..... 1.35
1 dozen dessert spoons or forks..... 2.00
½ dozen dessert spoons or forks..... 1.15
1 dozen table knives..... 2.25
½ dozen table knives..... 1.25
1 dozen table knives..... 4.25

These are made in only the one pattern. They are sent by express. There can be no variation from these offers. Only subscribers to The Blade can buy at these prices, but they can buy as much as they like.

SHERIDAN'S RIDE.

Our latest picture is Sheridan at the Battle of Five Forks, size 10x15 inches, and executed in colors. Price 15 cents. This picture cannot be purchased at an art store for less than 75 cents.

Address with remittance in current funds,

THE BLADE, Toledo, O.

CUT PAPER PATTERNS

Splendid Offer to Lady Reader of THE BLADE.

READ THE OFFER:

The above pattern or patterns will be mailed to any address for only 10 cents each. We will fill orders from any person, whether a regular or occasional reader of The Blade. In ordering, address "Pattern Department, Blade, Toledo, Ohio," enclose ten cents silver for each pattern wanted (do not send stamps if you can obtain other funds). State both title and number of pattern. No coupon required. Full description and directions—as the number of yards and material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by.

NO. 1246—HYACINTHE FROCK.

Sizes for 4, 6 and 8 years. Woolen frocks for little girls are frequently made to wear with muslin or silk guimps. This is not only

a pretty fashion but a useful one, as a clean white guimpe lends an air of dainty freshness to a gown that has seen many a romp. Any soft wool or silk goods can be made in this design, using narrow velvet ribbon to trim, and either silk or satin for the full rest. The sleeves are merely a puff of the material caught up at the shoulders. The guimpe can be made of lawn or cambric, or if preferred, silk or wool may be used. The full round skirt reaches a trifle below the knees and is finished with a deep hem. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1232—THE CAMBRIDGE BLOUSE JACKET.

Sizes for 34, 36 and 38-inch bust measure. Extremely stylish street jackets are made after the style of the Russian blouse, but finished and ornamented in a strictly conventional tailor-made fashion. The new style of outdoor garment is well illustrated in the model, which is cut with both lining and outside full at the waist line and close fitting at the shoulders and over the bust. The front is finished with a double box-plait, trimmed with narrow braid. The blouse extends below the waist line in a short fitted skirt, which is also trimmed with narrow braid. The jacket is suitable for any of the favorite woolen goods.

A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 896—ERINA COAT.

Sizes for 6 and 8 years.—Rough boucle cloth is the fabric of this very comfortable coat, which without having great weight is exceedingly warm. It is in regingote shape in the back, with a double-box-plait in the middle seam, which gives graceful fullness to the skirt. The revers are faced with plain cloth. The shoulder cape can be faced with the plain cloth cut an inch smaller than the pattern and stitched to it, or there can be

two capes, the under one of boucle cloth and the upper one of plain cloth. They should be bound together round the neck, and whether in one or two capes be hooked to the coat under the edge of the turn-down collar. Serge, cheviot, kersey and any of the popular clonking materials may be chosen for this model. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1248—DOTTIE FROCK.

Sizes for 6 months to 1 and 2 years.—A simple little Mother Hubbard frock for a little child, suitable for any variety of woolen or cotton fabrics, and is made in the plainest and most comfortable way. Soft French flannel is used for this model. The full skirt is guaged on the short pointed yoke,

velvet baby ribbon and lace trim the sleeves, yoke and pointed epaulettes. The neck band is edged with lace, and the rosettes are of the baby ribbon. The skirt is finished with a deep hem and a feather stitched tuck. If wash goods are preferred use nainsook, tuck the yoke, and substitute embroidery for the lace, omitting the baby ribbon altogether. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1234—SEVILLE WAIST.

Sizes for 34, 36, 38 and 40-inch bust measure. Braided effects are not confined to dressy frocks this season. Even the simplest house frocks are braided with some variety of silk or wool passementerie. The Seville is one of the most useful designs in a plain braided waist intended for home wear. Apart from a slight fullness at the belt the waist

fits over the lining snugly, and the velvet yoke fastens on the left shoulder and side. Three rows of braid from the yoke to belt give a pointed effect on the front of the waist. The sleeves are braided with bands and scrolls to match the waist. This design is suitable for any of the favorite materials. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

NO. 1182—Winthrop Skirt.

Sizes, medium and large. This exceedingly graceful and stylish design has seven gores and measures a little over four yards at the foot. Any of the popular woolen or silk fabrics may be selected for this model. There are several favorite ways for trimming. Some are trimmed across the front and hips; others have the seams outlined with the trimming, and others are trimmed at the bottom. The favorite finish for the bottom is a facing of haircloth or crinoline and a velveteen or braid binding. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

DO NOT FAIL to give the NUMBER of pattern, and MEASUREMENTS. It will save trouble and delay.

NO. 1013—GERALD RAIN CLOAK.

Sizes—Medium and large. A becoming rain cloak is a very necessary part of every woman's wardrobe, and is generally recognized for its usefulness. Our new pattern is a conservative standard mode, which will always look well. The long cloak is sleveless, loose in front, and fitted trimly in the back and under arms. The double-breasted cape affords considerable warmth and protection

when closed, and when open hangs with easy grace. Cravenette, which can be had in attractive browns and grays as well as black and blue, is the most desirable fabric for these cloaks, but there are also many half repellant cloths in attractive mixtures and wide-wale storm serges. Cloaking cloths in various weights are also used. The popular finish is machine stitching. A special illustration and full directions about the pattern will be found on the envelope in which it is enclosed.

ORCHARD AND HILL.

No push of buds, no breath of bloom,
No dream of new leaves soon to be;
No dear communion, bough to bough,
In orchard sympathy.
O sad Pine Tree,
Not these for thee,
But all of them, at will, for me.

A solitude of friendless green;
Winds that have swept a bitter sea;
Wide wastes of midnight sky between
The distant, heedless stars and thee.
Night sighs the wind and stars and sea—
O blest Pine Tree,
Close, close by thee
I pray thee make a place for me!
—Grace Duffield Goodwin,
in the Independent.

CRIME IN THE HAND.

"The fingers of criminals," says a medical man who has studied them, "are, in nine cases out of ten, in some way or other deformed. People who are constantly being convicted of theft are found to have long,

thin fingers, a wide space separating the first and second, and the little finger is crooked. In murderers the fingers are short and thick; the thumb is long, and the hand altogether

powerful. In cases where excessive brute force has been used the little fingers on both hands have been found to be weak and deformed. Knotty fingers are prominent where craftiness is exhibited. Among habitual criminals, especially burglars, the fingers are found to be thicker at the tops than near the knuckles. Out of 5,000 criminals recently examined, 90 per cent were found to have deformed fingers."

TREATY WITH THE MEN.

Plan of Kansas Women to Increase Attendance at Church.

For years past it has been a constant source of regret to the women of Hutchinson, Kan., that their husbands, fathers, brothers and sweethearts showed deplorable lack of interest in church affairs. One matron who reminded her husband of his remissness in this regard received in reply a declaration that it would not do him any good to go to church—the women's hats were so big he couldn't see the minister. This set his wife to thinking, and the result has been a treaty between the saints and the sinners of Hutchinson, which, if faithfully observed by the parties thereto, will gladden the hearts of preachers. A committee of women, composed of delegates from every church, made the proposition to 100 nonchurch-going men that they would remove their hats in the house of worship if the men in question would attend church at least once every Sunday. The men not only accepted, but they stipulated in addition that every would be generously disposed when the deacons passed around the contribution baskets. Of course every pastor in town is interested in seeing the treaty rigidly observed. They will see that the women will sit bareheaded if possible, and the latter will do their best to make the men act up to the agreement.

Profitable Verses.

The poet starved for years and years;
His lays were all of love and hope;
But now no hunger-pang he fears—
He sings of liver pills and soap.

Sisterly Affection.

He—Do you know, what I like about your sister is the way she looks you straight in the face when she's talking to you.

She—Yes; she has an awfully bad profile.—Cornell Widow.

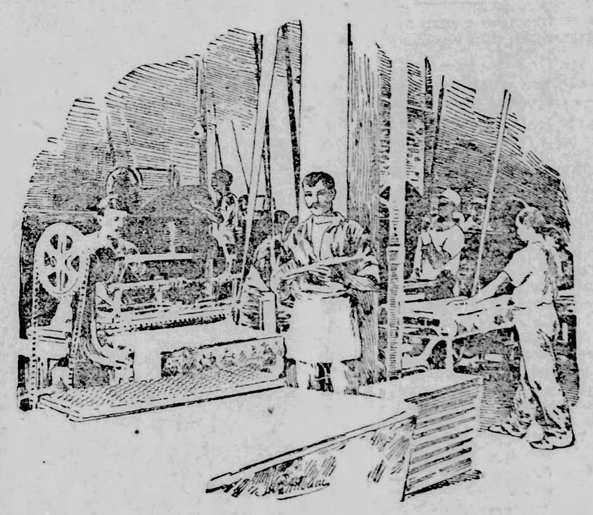
MIXED PAINTS 45c. We sell Ready Mixed Paint, all colors, Guaranteed highest grade made at 45 cents and up per gallon. For our handsome color card, full particulars and our easy-pay-after-received terms CUT THIS AD OUT and send to us. MOEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL.

SWEETS FOR SANTA.

HOW CANDY FOR WEE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS IS MADE.

Coloring Walking Sticks—Visit to a Factory Where Tons of Sugary Morsels Are Turned Out.

In a few weeks the windows, walls and counters of confectionery stores will blossom with the annual ante-holiday displays of candy canes, animals, musical instruments and all the devices of the confectioner's art so marvelous in the wistful eyes of admiring children. Of the thousands of these who will stare in longing delight at the tempting strings of wondrously striped walking sticks few have failed to wonder how the brilliant



SCENE IN "STARCHROOM" OF LARGE CANDY FACTORY.

markings were so skillfully made, says the Chicago Post.

The scene in a room devoted to the manufacture of stick candy is lively and picturesque in the extreme. In a corner is a confusing array of big covered kettles connected by a system of steam pipes.

"This," said the owner of the factory, "is what we call a vacuum cooking apparatus, and in it the various ingredients of stick candy are melted, cooked and brought to a proper consistency for pulling. There is no danger of burning, as all the kettles are provided with steam jackets. But come over here to the stone table where the workmen are about to lay the foundation of a batch of canes. This will enable you to see the whole process from start to finish.

With this remark he led the way to a table fully eighteen feet in length, the top

PREPARING FOR "PAN WORK."

of which is a smooth stone or cement slab. At one end of each of these tables—for there are many of them in the room—is a post holding a large hook, while at the other end is a small steam table the top of which is on a level with the long stone slab.

Factory Taffy-Pulling.

A man at each post was engaged in pulling, with motions of rhythmic regularity, a mass of glistening and sticky material which is commonly termed "taffy." The deftness with which this waxen skein was drawn out and then doubled back upon the hook with an easy flip, resulting in an audible concussion not unlike the clapping of hands, made the process appear very simple.

"That looks decidedly easy," remarked the owner of the establishment, "but it isn't. Long practice is necessary to do it just right, and the pullers must know exactly when to stop."

In a moment more the masses of various colors were placed on the stone table and the striper began his work by shaping the largest heap into a log-like roll about two feet in length, constantly turning the pliant mass in order to prevent it settling into flatness.

Next he took a red mass in hand, drawing it out into a strand the size of a hoe handle. Stretching it lengthwise of the big roll he broke it to the exact length of the latter by a quick stroke of the hand. Then he imbedded the red stripe into the larger roll and repeated the "laying on" process until the central mass was decorated with straight longitudinal stripes of various colors, each about two inches in breadth.

The workman then seized a pair of smoothly polished leather mittens, slipped them upon his hands and placed the big roll, which had a diameter of eight or ten inches, upon the steam table in order to keep it hot and pliant. In a twinkling the mittened hands slipped quickly back and forth over the mass, gradually shaping the roll down to a point at the end resting upon the stone table. Soon the mass assumes a tapering shape, and then the rapid work begins in earnest, several workmen ranging themselves along the side of the table.

The man at the steam table pulls from the conical mass a pliant strand of the desired thickness, deftly twisting the sticky rope as it is drawn out. This process is done with such rapidity that the strand shoots from his hands along the surface of the table in serpentine waves and coils. But it is not allowed to harden in this form. Other workmen snatch the strand, carry it the full length of the stone and then break it with a quick snap. This is continued until the stone is covered with candy ropes eighteen feet in length and of medium size and stripping.

When the ropes are sufficiently hardened the shears are brought and the strands cut in sections of the desired length. While the long sticks are still pliant the ends are crooked in the form of the conventional cane.

Making Stick Candy.

All stick candy is made in this way, and may be drawn out from the foundation to any size, from the thickness of a pipestem to the diameter of a broomstick. The severest test upon the workmen, however, comes in the making of sticks having in the center a carefully modeled design. Much of this kind of work may be seen in the big lozenge-shaped sections of sticks sold in mixed and broken candies. These designs are of almost every character—berries, birds, butterflies, monograms and letters. Some of them are of very intricate pattern.

The principle upon which they are constructed is the same as that employed in laying the exterior stripes. The central core or design is built up of layers or strands of different colors, surrounded by a mass of white material, which is padded out to the size of the roll on the steam table. As this roll is drawn out smaller the design remains intact and is simply reduced in size, maintaining its proper proportion to the diameter of the strand. This is the whole secret of making stick candy. Each flavor—wintergreen, peppermint, clove, etc.—has its distinctive color and design, so that a man familiar with the trade may recognize the flavor of a stick the moment he sees it.

The "starchroom" is to a candy factory what the casting-room is to iron foundings. Where the iron-worker uses sand the candy-maker uses starch. Here is where the centers of chocolate and gum drops and figure pieces of every description are molded. The place is filled with huge kettles—some of them holding 500 pounds each—and a bewildering variety of odd machines—which appear to discharge their tasks with almost human intelligence.

"Competition compels us to put out new designs every week in order to catch the fancy of the trade and of the children who are the principal buyers of the cheaper grades of candies," continued the owner. "This is especially true of what are termed penny goods. These are usually in the form of flowers, animals, birds or something of that kind and have a basis of gum, jelly or marshmallow coated with chocolate. The foreman is the 'pattern-maker' of the candy foundry and whittles out a single original pattern from which scores of others are cast in plaster of paris. These are fastened in long rows upon thin boards, ready to be placed in the 'printing machine.' This machine is well named, but instead of using type or stereotyped plates, its printing is done with the boards of patterns, and shallow trays or "flasks," as an iron-molder would call them, filled with dry starch, receive the impressions. These trays—and there are hundreds of cords of them in every large candy factory—are then placed in the 'depositing machine.'

"This contrivance is surmounted with a V-shaped trough containing the liquid which is to fill the impressions and form the centers of the candies. By an automatic movement of the mechanism the little holes in the base of the trough just long enough to drop into the impressions in the starch a quantity of the sugary fluid sufficient to fill them. One of these machinesss will turn out 700 pounds of centers an hour.

Drying the Sweets.

"When the molds are filled they are carted in the big dry rooms, which are, by a hot-air blast, kept at a temperature of 150 degrees above zero. Each large establishment of this kind has four or five of these dry rooms. At present we have at least 25,000 pounds of candy drying. As soon as the centers are sufficiently hardened the 'flasks' containing them are brought back to the starch room. Here the entire contents of the trays are dumped into what is inelegantly termed a 'starch buck.' It is, in fact, a huge, fanning mill. The centers move along a tilted trough or spout made of wire screen work over which sweeps an automatic brush, which thoroughly separates the starch from the candy centers. The candies come out of one end of the machine and the starch from the other."

CONSUELO'S FAD.

It was the young Duchess of Marlborough who started it, and it was a queer fad for an American woman to begin. But shortly after Consuelo became "her grace" when she walked abroad she was invariably accompanied by a dusky attendant. He carried her prayerbook to church, he carried her parcels

ACCOMPANIED BY HER BLACK PAGE.

when she shopped—in fact, he carried everything from lap dogs to lorgnettes. The custom of having a black page is an old English one. Thackeray's novels make frequent mention of the black attendant, but it had died out years before the daughter of the Vanderbilts revived it.

And now the spectacle depicted in the illustration is of everyday occurrence in London. The British damsel rides the bike abroad with "Sambo" in attendance.

UNIQUE CHURCH IN LONDON.

One Being Built for Rest and Meditation for Wayfarers.

Unique among the sacred edifices of London is the Church of the Ascension, which stands in Hyde Park, a little distance west of the Marble arch. This church will never be used for services, but for rest and meditation, as a notice inviting wayfarers to enter sets forth. It is not finished, but when completed it will be one of the most beautiful sights in London, and in its present state well repays a visit. The floor is tessellated and the walls will be covered with paintings. No plain stone will be visible. At present the panels which are painted contain representations of scriptural characters, saints and emblematical sketches, the work of F. Shields. The north end is raised, and here, as in many Roman Catholic churches—unlike Anglican—will be the chancel, the marble steps to which will afford a kneeling place for worshipers. The church is being built by Mrs. Russell Gurney, widow of the late rector of London.

Hood's Pills

Should be in every family medicine chest and every traveller's grip. They are invaluable when the stomach is out of order; cure headache, biliousness, indigestion and all liver troubles. 25 cents.

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Send for our 1898 Souvenir Art Catalogue—with colored frontispiece representing An Ancient Egyptian Home—elegantly printed for us by a renowned artist and reproduced in fac-simile—free on request. Contains our 1898 models of the Celebrated Cornish American Pianos and Organs, over 50 styles to select from. Mention this paper and the catalogue will be sent FREE with postage paid. REMEMBER we are the only firm of actual manufacturers selling exclusively to the general public direct, at factory cost—the only firm which offers you a piano at actual value for your money. There are no agents, dealers or middlemen's profits added.

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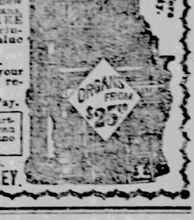


ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS.

THE AWFUL LITTLE BROTHER.

I admired her beauty rare, praised her pretty
Titian hair,
Spoke in raptures of her eyes so bright and
laughing,
Of her dress so nice and neat and her smile so
killing sweet,
And assured her that it was no idle chaffing.

Then her little brother dear sprung a grin
from ear to ear,
And, despite her head and finger shaking
warning,
Cried aloud: "Oh, she's all right! She looks
mighty slick to-night,
But, great Scott! you'd ought to see her in
the morning!"

—Denver Post.

POTATOES BETRAY NATIONALITY.

What an Observant Man Has Learned About the Use of "Murphies."

One of the easiest ways to tell the nationality of the persons in any locality is to go into a grocery store. It's not necessary to look at the name of the grocer. A glance at the potatoes in stock will be sufficient.

If the grocer is supplied with potatoes of the largest size, any one of which is a meal, it is certain that he deals exclusively with Irishmen. They like their Murphies large. If the potatoes are small their consumers are Frenchmen. They think a big potato is indelicate and does not look well. Germans insist on having their potatoes of medium size. They can't stand them either too large or small. Americans and English don't care what size they are, as long as they are good.

Free to Our Readers—The New Cure for Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, Etc.

As stated in our last issue the new botanical discovery, Alkavis, is proving a wonderful curative in all diseases caused by Uric acid in the blood, or disordered action of the Kidneys and urinary organs. The New York World publishes the remarkable case of Rev. A. C. Darling, minister of the gospel at North Constantia, New York, cured by Alkavis, when, as he says himself, he had lost faith in man and medicine, and was preparing himself for certain death. Similar testimony to this wonderful new remedy comes from others, including many ladies suffering from disorders peculiar to womanhood. The Church Kidney Cure Co., of No. 418 Fourth avenue, New York, who so far are its only importers, are so anxious to prove its value that for the sake of introduction they will send a free treatment of Alkavis prepaid by mail to every reader of WEEKLY BLADE who is a Sufferer from any form of Kidney or Bladder disorder, Bright's Disease, Rheumatism, Dropsy, Gravel, Pain in Back, Female Complaints, or other affliction due to improper action of the Kidneys or Urinary Organs. We advise all Sufferers to send their names and address to the company, and receive the Alkavis free. To prove its wonderful curative powers, it is sent to you entirely free.

FAVORS COMMERCIAL WAR

Count Agenor Goluchowski, the Austrian minister of foreign affairs, desires to unite Europe in a commercial war against the countries of America. He advised this policy in a recent public

COUNT GOLUCHOWSKI.

speech. The count is in the prime of life, scholarly and hitherto peaceful. During the recent war between Turkey and Greece it was his calm, decisive action that kept the small provinces in a state of peace. His remarks relative to a transatlantic commercial war are said to be sanctioned by the powers of Europe.

Some Doubt About It.

He—"I suppose if your father found me here he would kick me out of the door."

She—"Oh, I don't know. Papa's punding is wretched."—Detroit Journal.

Blade Porcelain China

A NEW THING.

Tea Sets and Dinner Sets

Still Another Reduction in Prices, and New Ware With Later Designs.

Briefly described, Porcelain, or Semi-Vitreous China, is a very high grade ware, being superior in color and finish to Iron Stone China, and VERY MUCH LIGHTER IN WEIGHT, nearly equal to china.

Our design is the VIOLET PATTERN, being very handsome and entirely new, and a marvel of beauty in shape and color.

Eighty, Fifty-Six, One Hundred and Eight or Twenty-eight pieces handsomely decorated in four colors and gold bands. These goods are made especially for THE BLADE, and we guarantee the highest quality of goods, the best grade of workmanship, the latest and most stylish shape of pieces as well as late and artistic designs of decoration. The following illustration is reproduced from a photograph of our new offerings.

No. 1—BLADE STANDARD TEA SET, 85 PIECES.—We have sold thousands of sets of these goods, and in every case the recipient received more than expected. This year we expect to send out at the reduced prices over Five Thousand Sets. This set consists of 85 pieces, as follows: 12 breakfast plates, 12 tea plates, 12 tea cups, 12 saucers, 12 fruit dishes, 12 individual butter dishes, 1 round cake plates, 1 tea pot, 1 cover, 1 sugar bowl, 1 cover, 1 cream pitcher, and 1 bowl.

The No. 1 Blade Standard Tea Set, 85 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, $4.75 (former price $7) or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of seven subscribers and $7. The club of seven names to be sent all at one time.

No. 2—BLADE TEA SET, 56 PIECES.—This set is exactly like the above illustrated 85-piece Tea Set, except that 12 breakfast plates and 12 individual butter plates.

The No. 2 Tea Set, 56 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $3.60 (former price $5.50); or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of six subscribers and $6, the club of six names to be sent all at one time.

No. 3—BLADE DINNER SET, 108 PIECES.—We can describe this set by taking the above illustrated 5-piece Tea Set and adding the following: 12 soup plates, 1 8-inch dish, 1 12-inch dish, 2 8-inch bakers, 1 sauce boat, 2 pickle dishes, 1 covered dish (2 pieces), 1 casserole, 1 comport, 1 covered butter dish (3 pieces), and 1 pie, making a total of 108 pieces.

The No. 3 Blade Dinner Set, 108 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $7.85; or we will present one of these sets to any person sending us a club of 15 subscribers and $15.00. The club of 15 names to be sent all at one time.

No. 4—BLADE CHINA SORTS, 28 PIECES, consisting of 12 soup plates, 1 8-inch dish, 1 12-inch dish, 2 8-inch bakers, 1 sauce boat, 2 pickle dishes, 1 covered dish (2 pieces), 1 casserole, 1 comport, 1 covered butter dish (3 pieces), and 1 pie, making a total of 28 pieces.

The No. 4 Blade China Sorts, 28 Pieces, and the Weekly Blade one year, only $4.25; or we will present one of these assortments to any person sending us a club of eight subscribers and $8. The club of eight names all to be sent at one time.

NOTE.—These sets are decorated with a later pattern. They are temporarily sold, and consequently will not match with former purchases. We recommend our readers to buy, first, our No. 1 Blade Standard Set. Afterwards, if pleased with the goods, you can order our No. 4 set, the two combined making you a complete dinner set.

General Directions and Information.

ORDER BY NUMBER.—The goods are carefully packed in box by manufacturer and shipped direct from the pottery to the purchaser upon our order. We shall order every package shipped by freight unless otherwise instructed. The receiver pays transportation. From 25 cents to $1, according to distance, will cover freight east of the Missouri River, while it may cost somewhere near $7 to pay freight to points beyond the Rockies. We do not advise shipping by express. Never before was so much value offered for so little money. Twenty years ago only the rich could afford such goods as we offer here. We guarantee these goods the best Porcelain China in the world, superior in enamel, color, style and finish to the best imported ware. Don't make us pay for it. We will not have it. As a result of this offer, thousands of clubs. These articles will be useful in the house of every reader of The Blade, no matter whether rich or poor. Any person can afford to purchase a club of six or fifteen for The Blade in one day. Get about it before some one else canvasses the field. We are prepared to fill orders promptly.

THE STEPMOTHER.

She looks just like her mother, and somehow,
I don't know why it is, I can't begin
To love her as I ought to, or allow
My heart to open wide and let her in.
Perhaps it is because he often says,
"She looks just like her mother," and then
sighs
As though perhaps the pretty baby ways
Called up her face, her vanished smile, her
eyes.

And here I kneel for hours and sadly gaze
Into the baby face so near my own,
And think with terror of the coming days,
If memories of happy years now flown,
I try in vain to take her to my heart—
She looks just like her mother and I feel
Somehow that she is holding us apart,
As here beside the tiny bed I kneel.

Night after night he gently stoops above
His baby's bed and gazes on its face
As I do now, and feels for it the love
Which I expected would take place.
'Tis not the baby's fault, of course, but still
She looks just like her mother, and in vain
I struggle hard my aching heart to fill
With love for her, and find there only pain.

He never notices, because I know
A man don't always see such things just
right,
And if he knew that it would hurt me so
He'd try to hide his feelings from my sight.
He only tells me, when I look at her,
"She looks just like her mother," if he
know,
His baby is his all, his comforter,
It has her face, her smile, her eyes of blue.
—Frank X. Finnegan, in Chicago Chronicle.

MAKING MERRY FOR MONEY.

Smiles—Some of those Biblical characters must have been precocious children.

Giles—Why so?

Smiles—Well, there's Job, for instance. The Bible says he cursed the day that he was born.—Chicago Daily News.

The poor tramp stopped at the kitchen door. "Kind lady," said he, "will you give me a bite?" Why certainly," said the sorry old lady and had no teeth, so she could only bit him with a rolling pin.—Philadelphia Record.

"Any new features in 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' this year?" asked the critic.

"Yes; deadbeds are done away with; everybody in the play is cured by taking Powder's patent germ destroyer."—Chicago Record.

"Have you completed your plan for hastening the business of the United States Senate?"

"Partly," replied the newly-elected Senator. "I have prepared a speech on the subject which it will take me three days to deliver."—Washington Star.

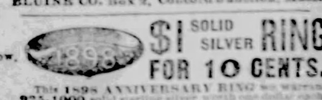
"And he kissed you?"

"Yes and right under mother's eyes."

"I should think he would have preferred to do it under your own."—Tid-Bits.

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.

Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm, for one day's work. Send us your address and we will explain how you can get this watch and a large Premium List. No money required. BLUINE CO., Box 2, Concord Junction, Mass.



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Many persons who suffer in silence from nervousness, insomnia, headache or poor memory before they will try a remedy that will cure them, but are willing to pay for relief after they are thoroughly convinced. Therefore we have inaugurated a system of credits to any one. Our remedy, Universal Vitaline, is a scientific preparation of Phosphorus and Iron in combination with the nerve tonics and all forms of nervousness and debility, and is a specific for all forms of nervousness in both sexes, and is a positive relief in all chronic cases. UNIVERSAL VITALINE CO., Dept. E, Homewood, Ill.

SILVER TEA SET FREE

Send us your address and we will explain how you can get this beautiful Silver Tea Set, consisting of Teapot, Sugar Bowl and Creamer, all handsomely engraved and silver plated on white metal base. Warranted to wear 25 years. Given for selling only 3 dozen packages of Bluine at 10 cents per package. Bluine is a delicious beverage, and sells on sight. Every family buys. Send your address and we will send Bluine by mail. When sold send us the money and we will send you the Tea Set by express. BLUINE CO., Box 2, Concord Junction, Mass.

NERO'S VIOLIN SOLO.

Student of Ancient History Makes a Great Discovery.

"Professor," said the pupil, "is it really true that Nero fiddled while Rome burned?"

"Certainly," responded the professor, "and, though not substantiated by direct evidence, it seems consistent with his character, it does, however, behoove us to admit that the pupils might not play the fiddle."

"But, professor, is there no record of the tune he played?"

"I do not recollect ever having heard the name of the tune. It is possible that there is no record of it. Can you play it for us?"

"Beg pardon, professor, but I think I know the tune to a certainty."

"Indeed! That shows commendable research, James. And the tune is, in your opinion?"

"There'll Be a Hot Time in the Old Town To-night."—Chicago Chronicle.

AUTOMATIC CORK.

A cork which is always in its place in the neck of the bottle, except when the bottle is in the very act of being decanted is described herewith. It is a French invention, and is

BALANCED CORK.

designed to keep the bottle always covered and its contents always protected from the air. The cork, it will be seen, is balanced and when the bottle is standing upright it drops into its place in the neck, but when the bottle is tilted the cork is lifted away to permit of the free flow of the contents.

THE COZY CORNER

AFTER.

After the world has grown weary
Of crowning our proud-lifted head,
And life, like a flower cup, closes,
All sweetness, and weariness fled;
Perhaps we may be more unselfish—
Remembering mother's worn face—
Or father's bent, mute-speaking shoulders,
With Time's ever pitiful trace.
And we'll smooth out their pathway, and rest them,
We'll heed all their heartaches and tears,
After our plans are completed
And gone with the fast-fleeing years;
We'll love them, and care for them, after,
Ah yes—after!

After the daytime is over,
And pleasures gone out, like a breath,
And pale, on the Limeless border,
We see the grim figure of Death,
Perhaps we will give to our Maker
The last tattered fragments of life,
And hope for reward in the future

As those who have worked in the strife.
We'll lay in his hands the worn blanket,
All empty, and cankered with rust,
And hope a bright, glorified spirit,
To rise from its dim, shapeless dust,
That somehow a peace may came after.
Ah yes—after!

"After?" There is no such country.
How strangely deluded we walk,
Who stand with one hand on a duty,
And one on the "Afterward" gaze.
For never in time, nor the ages,
Can duties be done that are past,
And ever remorse and repentance
Their long, haunting shadows will cast.
Don't wait for a time to love mother,
Don't wait for a time to serve God;
Your kisses may press a dead forehead,
Your prayers meet a chastening rod.
Then bitter and long be the "After,"
Ah yes—after!

JENNIE HARRIS.

As the Christmas season approaches, our hearts are filled with the feeling of good will towards all people, to a greater or less degree, and we forget the causes we have, or think we have, of bitterness toward others, and any hard feelings we may have entertained, seem to soften and disappear in the genial moral atmosphere that is all pervading at that time. We do not remember whether one has worn "the blue or the grey," whether some one has slighted us on some occasion, or whether they have absolutely wronged us—we seem to forget all, except that it is the time for forgiveness and sympathy and helpfulness.

Of course, I know there are some who are so "cranky," or so firm in their belief of their own infallibility that they will remember unpleasant things even at this time; who will insist that forgiveness for every little mistake shall be implored in the most abject manner before they will grant it, but it is not of these I am thinking; it is of the great majority of people who, knowing their own need, are ready, and glad, to extend comfort and help to others.

If you have received injury from another, if you feel that you have not been appreciated, that you have been slighted, try this year, if you have never before done so, the effect of the Golden Rule as a return for these trials. You will find that such treatment given in the true spirit will bring to you apologies and recognition when every other method will fail. Endeavor to look upon the unpleasant things of life, no matter how they come, as not worth spoiling all of the life for and forget and forgive, even as you would have others forget and forgive the unpleasant words and actions you are responsible for.

If you, and you, and you, who read this, have any "unfriendly friend," now is the time to go to them, meet them more than half way, if necessary, and do your part toward healing the trouble between them and you. Do not go with an "I-am-better-than-thou" expression; do not say, "See how good I am to come to you to make up our trouble," but go as you would to a dear child, or brother, or sister, who had done you a wrong, and say, as you would to them, let there be peace between us, and then the true Christmas feeling, the peace that passeth all understanding shall surely be yours.

To some of us, these anniversaries, when all the world is joyous, bring such sorrowful remembrances of dear ones who have in former years helped us to plan and prepare for the Christmas time, but whose places are now vacant, and it seems as if we could not enter into the spirit of the time. But, is it right that we should make others sad? Is it not better to show our remembrance of those who are gone, by continuing to make others happy, as they have done and would do were they still with us?

One of the Cozy Corner friends has many sad memories connected with this season, and I am sure that every one who reads his letter to-day will send kindly thoughts to Eagle Ben:

Dear friends of the Cozy Corner:—Seated in my own cozy corner, I had intended to write of things that came under my observation while a soldier, but I find I can not do so now, for my mind is directed in another channel.

I am very sad to-night, thinking of my dear wife who died a year ago. Oh, how often have I thought of her, and how I have missed her. Ours was a happy home before the Grim Reaper came to it. Twenty-six years together, with hardly a cross word to each other.

It may be wrong to wish them back again, and it may be wrong, also, to grieve too much for those of our loved ones who have gone before, but the thought of them will come to the most of us in spite of ourselves.

Time may heal the wound that death has caused in my home, but it will take time for, what is home without our loving companions?

Aunt Nell sends the following letter, which may be helpful to some of our young people who are anticipating spending their holidays away from home, and also to those who are to receive friends:

Dear Cozy Corner Friends:—As many of you are, doubtless, expecting either to visit or entertain friends this winter, may I give you just a few suggestions that will tend to make these vists pleasanter? First, for the hostess: Do not invite people who are not congenial to each other to visit you at the same time. If you do neither you nor your guests will have an enjoyable visit. When inviting guests, much embarrassment may be avoided by stating in your invitation the time for their coming and for their leaving you. "Come whenever you can, and stay long as you can be contented," is a very common form of invitation, which often leads to much discomfort on the part of both hostess and guest.

If you cannot meet your guests at the railroad station, send them full directions as to how they are to reach your home, and be ready to welcome them at the door. Take them to their rooms at once, that they may have an opportunity of making any changes in their toilet they may desire, before meeting the family and other guests. If their journey has been long, a cup of tea, or some light refreshments sent to the room, may be very acceptable. After directing them how to find the family rooms or parlor, leave them till they are ready to join you.

After introducing them to any who may be strangers, do not feel it incumbent upon you to be continually talking to them, or inquiring if there isn't something you can do for them. A sensible person prefers to be let alone, sometimes, and will ask for anything she may need, and a hostess can have a care for the comfort of her guest without being fussy about it.

In your guest-room, place in a conspicuous place, a card containing the hours for meals, the times of collection and delivery of mails, train times and any other data that may be of special interest. An easy chair or couch, a few books, pens, ink and stationary, a well furnished work basket, and freedom to be alone in the room at times, will make your guest-chamber, no mater how small it may be, a haven of rest and comfort to your guest.

When the time for her departure arrives, have all arrangements made to prevent any delay, if she is to go any distance prepare a dainty luncheon for her, and send her off rejoicing, for there is quite as much tact required in speeding the parting guest, as in welcoming the coming one.

For the guest: Upon the receipt of an invitation you should, as soon as possible, either accept or decline it. You owe this much to your friend. If you accept, go at the time she appoints, neither sooner or later, and be equally prompt in leaving as she probably has other guests to follow you, or rather arrangements for the time when she expects you to leave. While visiting, do not expect your hostess to give up all of her time for your entertainment to the disarrangement of her family affairs. Try and fit in, so that you will not incommode any one.

Do not expect your hostess to go to too much expense in entertaining you at places of amusement. Some people do not realize that it costs a great deal of money to visit these places, and unless you are prepared to pay the expenses, do not suggest that you would like to visit the theatres, attend concerts, lectures, etc. Your hostess will think of them, and will invite you to as many as she thinks she can afford. Do not make any more trouble for the servants than is necessary, your presence in the house will make some difference with their work, especially where but one, or two maids are kept and it is only reasonable that you should make this extra work as light as possible.

Keep in your room when you think that the family would like to have a few moments to themselves, or when your hostess has her housekeeping to attend to. Be careful not to delay the meals—if there is no "time card" in your room, learn at once the hours for meals; for rising and for retiring and comply with them religiously.

When the time for your visit has expired, be ready to go, do not put the family to any extra trouble at this time—thank your friends for the pleasant visit you have had, and you will leave them truly wishing that you may repeat your visit.

Annice Holcomb answers the anxious-to-do-right mother: Dear friends, I have just read the letter in The Blade, in regard to Santa Claus. I do not think there is something wrong in letting little children believe that there is a Saint who has an especial interest in them and their pleasure, at Christmas time. I think it would have taken a great deal of pleasure from my childhood if I had not believed that it was Santa Claus who brought the gifts for my parents and friends to give to me, and I am very certain that I never felt that I had lost any faith in mankind, when, as I grew older, I learned all about his saintship.

A child who is so easily influenced in the matter of faith, had better be raised with nothing but cold facts to think of. He may be better for such training, (though I doubt it), but he will lose lots of fun.

If any mothers have doubts as to the moral effect of such things, they surely should not allow them, but it seems to me that there are many worse deceptions shown to children than Santa Claus.

Mrs. J. F. M., writes on the same subject:

The question of deceiving a child with Santa Claus stories is one that comes up regularly every year. Some dear mother who is over anxious lest she harm her children in some way will allow herself to worry over this matter. The greatest trouble many of us have with the children of to-day, is to presuade them that Santa Claus is anything but a huge, Christmas joke, and there is very little danger of progressive young America being at all deceived by his jolly saintship.

When my boy was three years old, and saw for the first time a Christmas tree, he accepted the gifts from papa, mamma, brother, sisters and friends with great gravity and then asked, "What did Santa send me?" We were nonplussed for a moment, but as he showed great persistence in having his questions answered, even at that age, we told him Santa, sent the tree, and he was satisfied, but later on confided to me that Santa Clause didn't know much what boys wanted.

I would tell the anxious mothers not to worry; let your children have all the pleasure they can, and when they are old enough to understand that Santa Clause is not a real person, they will be old enough to understand why he has been introduced into the Christmas festivities.

A "Western Mother" takes a different view:

I was very much interested in the question asked in the Blade about teaching children to think there was a Santa Claus. I cannot believe it is right to teach them any falsehood. If we begin by telling them lies, we must expect that they will not have a proper regard for the truth when they are older. We have, in our family, never had anything of the kind at Christmas time. Our gifts to each other are neatly wrapped, directed to the one for whom they are intended and laid on a table in the library, the night before Christmas. After family worship is over on Christmas morning, we open the packages, and I am sure we are all as happy as if we had heard that Santa Claus would bring them.

My youngest son is five years old, and heard of this way of accounting for gifts, only last winter. He came in from his play with a little friend, and asked me why Santa Claus did not come to our house, as well as to other people's houses. I told him there was no such a person. "Then," said he, "Harry's father and mother told him a lie, for he said if he was a good boy Santa Claus would bring him a pair of skates and some candy."

Think of it, parents, how could I have looked my child in the face if I had ever told him such a thing. Let us all remember that unless we sow good seeds in the minds of our children, we must be held responsible for the future results.

A "Flower Lover" suggests something for Christmas gifts:

There is nothing that will give more lasting pleasure (unless it be a book or picture) than a growing plant for a Christmas gift. Cut flowers are always appropriate and acceptable, but their beauty does not remain long, and for what a few of these will cost, you can buy a plant with buds and blossoms, one that will give pleasure for months. Of course, the choicest plant for a gift is a palm and these come in several varieties, all of them lovely, but, alas, all of them expensive. There are some varieties of palm that are small, and suitable for table decoration. Rubber plants are also favorites, their rich, green leaves keeping their color and fine appearance, with little or no care.

For flowering plants, a pot of chrysanthemums can be obtained for a sum within the reach of a very limited income, and geraniums and other plants can be obtained in great variety.

Ferns are among the most beautiful of all plants for presents, and at this season of the year most florists will have a stock of "fern dishes" ready for the trade. These make lovely centerpieces for the table, and are easily cared for, where plenty of heat and moisture can be had.

Time will not allow me to tell you of all the beautiful plants that you can buy for gifts, but I hope that every reader of the Blade will have as a part of his, or her, Christmas joy, a flower of some kind.

The editor thanks Mrs. A. E. B. for her letter and the enclosure, and will be glad to hear from her again.

Nellie P. C., I do not know anything about the Daisy Guild you mention, but if you wish to form a society for girls (don't say "get up" a society) you must first decide for what object it is to be organized. Then invite your friends who are interested, to a meeting at your house, explain your ideas to them and if all are agreed, you can proceed to elect a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer; decide what dues shall be paid and when, and there your society is, all ready for active work.

As to having a "pass word," that is as you please. It isn't at all necessary, and it seems just a little bit foolish for a society of young girls to have any mystery about their little work. You may select some good motto if you wish, and if you care to go to the expense of a badge, society pin, or ring, you may.

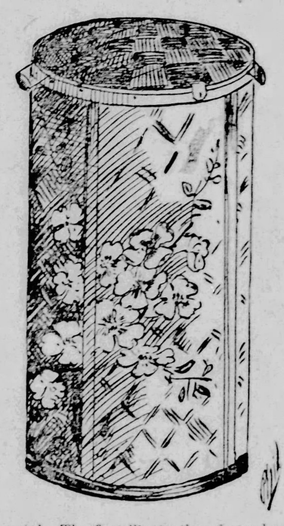
It generally happens, however, that the society which does the most, and best work, pays the least attention to these outward signs.

A SPLENDID OFFER.

As the holidays are rapidly approaching, Miss Bouton, after consulting with the publishers of the paper, has arranged to make the following offer for a limited time to those of her Household friends whose subscription to The Blade expires in the near future. If $1.25 is enclosed in a letter addressed to her personally she will forward postpaid a cloth bound copy of her last book, Life's Gateways, and see that the name is entered as a subscriber to the Weekly Blade for another year. Those familiar with Miss Bouton's writing know that the book cannot fail to be helpful and encouraging, and will make a fine holiday gift. A portrait of the author forms the frontispiece.

BLADE FANCY WORK CLUB.

In small houses it is sometimes necessary to place the hamper for soiled clothes in the bath room or in a closet that is used for other purposes, and, as a general thing, they are not at all ornamental. The first illustration shows how they may be made so, however, if one has the time and desire.



A plain basket is covered with "splints" (such as are used for making chair bottoms), woven like basket work and ornamented in any desired manner. For small work baskets, bright colored dress braid may be used in place of the splints, each crossing of the braid fastened in place with small beads.

The much-used cigar box comes to the front every Christmas and is sandpapered and gilded; lined and decorated, to make a receptacle for jewels, handkerchiefs, etc.

A very pretty work box can be made by lining a box with cambric, placing pockets on the side lining, and driving some short nails through the bottom of the box to place spools of thread upon. This arrangement keeps the thread cleaner than when it is allowed to rest upon the bottom of the box where the dust will collect, and the thread can be taken without removing the spool from the pin formed by the nail.

At a recent sale of fancy work there was shown what was called a "pin necessary." It was made of a blue silk sachet about 10 inches long and 8 inches wide. This had an interlining of wadding well sprinkled with violet powder, and was closed at both ends and on the sides. On one side was placed a piece of white flannel a trifle smaller than the silk, on which was placed pins of every description. Large and small safety pins in black and white; ditto common pins, hat pins, fancy pins and stick pins.

The whole thing folded in thirds, lengthwise, and was tied with a narrow ribbon and a more convenient addition to a travelers' outfit could not be found.

THE BLADE COOK.

As an addition to the recipes for Christmas cheer, we have this sent us:

Fig Pudding.

Boil to a jelly ½ lb. of figs; ¾ cupful of sugar and sufficient water to keep it from burning. Mix 1 cupful of chopped suet, 1½ cupfuls of flour, 1 teaspoonful of baking powder, ½ teaspoonful of salt and enough sweet milk to make a stiff dough. Roll the dough about ½ inch thick, spread with the fig jelly, roll like jelly cake and steam 2½ hours. Serve hot with cream or egg sauce.—Mrs. V. C. B.

Egg Sauce.

Mix 1-3 cupful of butter, 2-3 cupful of sugar, and 2 well beaten eggs. Pour into this 1 cupful of boiling water, a little at a time, stirring it constantly while pouring, flavor with vanilla, and let the bowl containing it set over boiling water for three minutes.

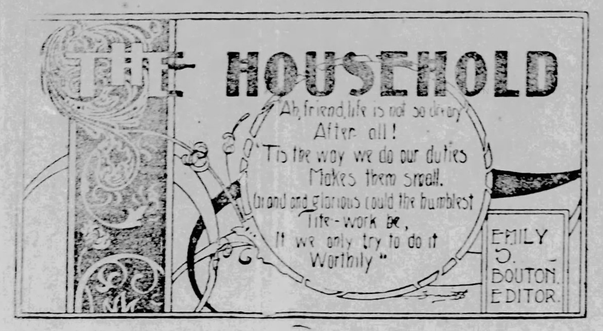
Turkey or Chicken in Savory Jelly.

Make a jelly of 2 cupfuls of stock in with an onion, celery and bay leaf have been boiled, ¼ package of gelatine soaked in ½ pt. of water and 1 tablespoon of brown caramel. Season with salt and pepper. Place some of the jelly in a mould and then pieces of dark and light meat of chicken or turkey. Alternate until the mold is filled, having the last layer of meat. Set in a cold place till the jelly is well set, and serve garnished with parsley or celery.—Elizabeth W.

The colder days that are coming to us will suggest how very good a substantial soup or broth will seem for dinner when the good man and the children come home from work and school, and for such a dinner—for a whole dinner can be made from it—there is none better than this:

Scotch Vegetable Soup.

Put 3 lbs. of beef, a small veal-bone and ½ lb. of fresh lean pork into a kettle containing 8 qts. of water. Let it boil slowly for 3 or 4 hours, skimming it carefully. Chop fine carrots, cabbage, onions and potatoes enough to make ½ pt. of each, and add to the stock 1½ hours before serving; ½ pt. of pearl barley should be put in 1 pt. of cold water, and allowed to boil for 10 minutes, and then added with the vegetables. In serving, some prefer to strain it, and serve clear, others use the vegetables with the soup. There is not much left in these, however, that is at all nutritious, as the goodness is all in the soup.—Annie McL.



STORY OF A LIFE.

IT IS THAT OF ONE WHOSE WORK THRILLED THE WORLD'S HEART.

What Her Childhood Was and the Influences That Moulded Her Character.

Incidents in the lives of those persons who have helped to better humanity, those things which go to show how their characters grew until the strength and self-reliance which enabled them to do a great work, are always interesting. Besides the interest there is a lesson to be learned that may be more or less obvious, according to the perception of the reader.

I find in a most delightful book recently issued by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston, both the quality of entertainment and the inspiration that the records of the strong, true lives give, of which I have been speaking. It is entitled Life and Letters of Harriet Beecher Stowe, and was edited by Annie Fields, who has certainly made it a labor of love.

Beginning with the childhood of one who stirred the world's heart to its center, she has allowed this same wonderful woman to tell for the most part her own story through her letters to her family and her friends. We find great interest and amusement, however, in the tales related of some of her ancestors in whom can be traced many of the traits which were prominent in her own character. "The Beecher race may justly be considered a noble one, as we trace it from the beginning; strong in spirit as well as in body, always readers and thinkers, always animated with love of the public good, and holding it predominant above private good." It is this quality which is conspicuous in all of Mrs. Stowe's life, not so common as to take away the admiration it excites in those who recognize what it means of accomplishment through unselfish work and energy.

Of her own people she says in a letter: "One of my most decided impressions of the family as it was in my childhood days was of a great household inspired by a spirit of cheerfulness and hilarity, and of my father, though pressed and driven with business, always lending an attentive ear to anything in the way of life and social fellowship. My oldest sister, whose life seemed a constant stream of mirthfulness, was his favorite and companion, and he was always more than indulgent toward her pranks and jokes." I think it was this keen perception of the humorous side of life which was the possession of most of the Beecher family, that enabled them often to rise superior to troubles under which others would sink utterly. Half of the battle is won in any struggle with misfortune, when the shadows are dispersed by the light of a sunny temperament, or of one which is determined to see the brighter side and accept philosophically what is inevitable.

The story of the way in which the young Harriet came to the consciousness that Jesus was her soul-friend is very sweet and tender. In those days the "coming to Christ" was a thing to be wrestled for in order to escape an eternity of hell fire. She writes that "most of father's sermons were as unintelligible to me as if he had spoken in Choctaw." But at this particular time she followed him wholly, and it became plain even to her childish understanding that the friend she needed was the friend described. She longed with passionate earnestness for him and finally the conviction came that she "could trust Him for anything." "My whole soul was illumined with joy, and as I left the church to walk home, it seemed to me as if nature herself were hushing her breath to hear the music of heaven."

Mrs. Stowe's deeply poetic and fervent nature may be seen from these words. Could she have been let alone, her son writes, this religious experience might have gone on as sweetly and naturally as the opening of a flower in the gentle rays of the sun. That could not, however, be, because those less sensitive were perpetually prompting her to a morbid self-examination, and a fear that she had made a mistake. Only think of a sane man asking a little girl such questions as the following when she requested admission to his church:

'Harriet, do you feel that if the universe should be destroyed (awful pause) you could be happy with God alone?"

And then when the mentally bewildered child was trying to grasp his meaning, he completed his work in these words: "You realize, I trust, in some measure at least, the deceitfulness of your heart, and that in punishment for your sins God might justly leave you to make yourself as miserable as you have made yourself sinful." No wonder that she could not repeat "the ecstasy of that beautiful Sabbath morning" or find again "that heavenly friend."

Her letters regarding her father's going to Boston at the time when Unitarianism had overwhelmed orthodoxy are very interesting. She tells how he threw himself into the work of bringing the people back to the religion of their Puritan forefathers, and he soon became the passionate emotion which entered into her protest against that which she believed wrong. Her description of the way in which her father prepared his sermons and got ready for church is very amusing. "Just as the last stroke of the bell was dying away, he would emerge from the study with his coat very much awry, come down the stairs like a hurricane, stand impatiently protesting while female hands that ever lay in wait adjusted his cravat and settled his coat-collar, calling loudly the while for a pin to fasten together the stubbed bits of paper (hieroglyphic notes), which, being duly dropped into the crown of his hat, and hooking wife and daughter like a satchel on his arms, away he would start on such a race through the streets as left neither brain nor breath till the church was gained."

The reader will see by following her letters, the gradual growth of a more healthy religious character, returning finally to the trustfulness and peace that were hers when she first began to see the shining of the Divine light within. And yet through it all and growing upon her as the years went by was the increasing intensity of desire to work for humanity. Always was there in her ears the great undertone of the wrongs and sufferings of a portion of humanity, and this finally culminated in the story known over the world as Uncle Tom's Cabin.

I never read the narration of the writing of this which so thrilled all nations with its flame of truth, without a beating heart, even now when it and the circumstances which called it forth have faded so far away into the past that they are only history. For there is far more to be thought of than the mere production of a masterpiece of fiction. That a woman, the mother of a family, feeble in health, poor in purse, and crowded with tasks beyond her strength should have yet been moved to strike such a clarion note of warning, seems wonderful. It was a strong soul using a frail physical instrument, which yet responded to each touch, and so a great people were moved to a recognition of truths. Here were words that must be spoken, and as always when the critical moment comes, when the tide must be turned, the one with the power to do it arose to its accomplishment.

I should like to quote largely from the book were it possible. I only designed, however, to call attention again to the telling of a familiar story in a new and attractive way, adding to its fascination and its inspiration by the relation of things hitherto unspoken to the great public.

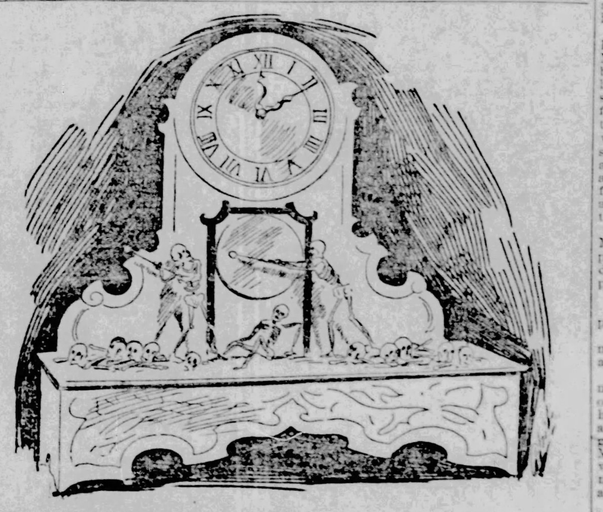
EMILY S. BOUTON.

A CURIOUS AND INTERESTING CLOCK.

Here is a clock which not even a nimble-fingered Swiss could have turned out.

Two-thirds of the way around the world there has traveled the strange story of this clock—the most marvelous that ever clockmaker dreamed of.

This fabulous piece of mechanism, so weird in conception, so infinite in delicacy, is the property of an Indian prince in one of the inland districts of the empire. It was the work of the vastly skilled artisans of the East, and the only white man, probably, who ever set eyes upon it was the English army officer who went to the palace of the nabob as bearer of messages from the English government, and, returning to the coast, told of the marvel he had witnessed.



THE WONDERFUL CLOCK.

The dial of this clock was outlined in gold upon a carved slab of some peculiar marble, and beneath it was suspended, between two uprights, a silver gong. Then a broad, flat surface of marble spread out before that, littered from end to end with miniature bones and skulls, and here and there tiny silver hammers, with little round balls for heads. The bones seem to be entirely disconnected, and looked only like so much rubbish remnants of the tiny dead.

The clock stood in the dining hall where the ceremonious meal was being served, and as 1 o'clock drew near the prince called the visitor's attention to a rustling among the dry bones. With a faint clatter they began to rise and come together, a skull set itself upon the shoulder structure, and from the mass of dry bones one tiny skeleton rose complete, with a little hammer clinched in his bony fingers. He stood beside the shining gong until the minute hand pointed precisely to the hour.

Then, with a quick swing, he drove the hammer against the shining surface, and a silver note, fine as a thread, burst forth and echoed away in soft cadences among the distant pillars of the place.

Before its whispers ceased in the stillness the little skeleton had, like the ghost of John James Christopher Benjamin Binns, "gone down again," and the scattered bones lay motionless once more upon the marble plain.

At 2 o'clock the same ceremony was gone through with, save that this time two figures rose from out of the heap of bones and each struck one sturdy stroke.

As the hours went on the wonder grew. The dancers and musicians came, and the feast continued in East Indian splendor. But hour after hour of revelry was registered by the uprising of one more of the dead, to beat into the understanding of the revelers the solemn message that another hour had died out of human life and vanished into human history.

At midnight when the whole twelve had struck the resonant silver and told out to its finish the story of an idle day the feasting ceased, the feasters fled and darkness enwrapped the clock and its mystery.

Of its history, of its well-nigh magical workings, its proud owner would say nothing.—Decorator and Furnisher.

A TRUE STORY OF A GOOD DOG.

They met one cold, rainy day on a windy street corner, and Philip will never forget that first meeting. He was warmly dressed under his waterproof coat, and his feet were dry in their rubber boots, and the moment he saw the poor, shivering, little dog with its gentle eyes and its friendly tail which wagged in spite of the cold and wet, his heart went out to him. It was not a sleek, handsome dog, but a lean and stunted black-and-tan. Perhaps that is the reason Philip's heart ached for him. Philip had neither brothers nor sisters. He wondered if this poor dog had. He stopped on the corner and held out his hand, and the dog leaped upon him as though it had found an old friend. Then Philip felt sure that the poor fellow not only had no brothers nor sisters, but was an orphan besides.

Philip stooped down and put his face close to the dog's dripping cheek, and whispered in his ear:

"Doggie, would you like to go home with me, and be my little playmate? And have a nice, warm bed? And plenty of milk to drink and bones to gnaw? And—"

But when he had said this much the dog began barking and whisking about so in his delight, that Philip jumped up snapping his fingers, and the two ran home together as though they had known each other for years.

At the end of a week Philip's playmate was altogether another kind of a dog. He had become sleek and plump, and was the happiest, most-contented dog in the neighborhood. Philip spent

hours with the dog's paws on his knees and the dog's merry eyes looking up into his own, repeating the loving names he could remember; but none of them seemed to have been heard before by this one. Finally he said:

"I will name you myself. I will name you after my pet cat who died and went to heaven, I guess, for she was a very good cat—I will name you Mack. Sic 'em, Mack!"

Mack must have understood all about it, for he nearly exploded with delight, and from that moment he answered instantly when his name was called.

When warm weather had come Philip and Mack made long excursions in the woods and meadows beyond the city. In the woods they played hide and seek from tree to tree. It was glorious sport, and once when Philip caught Mack where the hillside was quite steep, and they fell and rolled down the hill together, Philip was sure he heard the dog laugh. That night he told his parents about it. They were at supper, and while Philip told the story Mack put his fore paws up on the table and laughed again, so clearly and plainly that no one could help hearing it. Philip's parents were so astonished that they spent the whole evening drawing pictures of Mack laughing, and Philip's father, who was a poet, wrote some beautiful verses about it.

By the time winter came again Philip and Mack had become such fast companions that they could not be separated from each other even for a night. So a bed was made for Mack at the foot of Philip's bed; but always, in the morning when Philip awoke, he found Mack curled up on the cover by his side. Once Mack was sick for a week, and Philip's heart was nearly broken.

"What shall I do if Mack dies?" he asked.

His father tried to comfort him, saying that Mack would probably be well in a few days. "Even if he should die," said Philip's father, "he is such a good dog that we will hope to find him in heaven when we get there."

But Mack got well, and he and Philip were happier and fonder of each other than ever. On very cold, stormy days they played at various games in the large room where they slept. There was not a boy in the neighborhood who could beat Mack at tag, or hide-and-seek.

One day Philip taught Mack a new game. Philip called it highway robbery. He taught Mack to hide behind the bed and jump out when Philip went by. It was a beautiful game. After a while Mack learned it so well that when he had jumped out from behind the bed he would place his paws on Philip's chest and take his coat in his mouth, as much as to say, "Your money or your life."

There was one thing lacking. Philip thought he ought to have a pistol to defend himself with. All at once he remembered that his father's pistol lay on the bureau in his bedroom. Philip went the bureau in his bedroom. Philip went and got it. But the moment Mack saw the pistol he shrank into a corner of the room and whined pleadingly.

"Oh, come on, Mack, what are you afraid of?" said Philip.

Mack returned to the game, wagging his tail, and looking lovingly at his playmate out of his gentle eyes.

"You blessed old dog, I wouldn't hurt a hair of your head," said Philip, giving him a hug. "Now, Mack! here I come!"

Philip pointed the pistol at Mack when he jumped out from behind the bed. Mack whined a little, and Philip remembered afterward that there were tears in his eyes; but he leaped upon Philip the same as usual—no, not the same as usual, for his paw caught the trigger of the pistol, there was a horrible explosion and when the smoke cleared away Philip saw his gentle, loving playmate bleeding at full length on the carpet. There was a great black blotch in the center of his forehead where powder had burned it, and it was from the center of the blotch that the blood flowed.

"Oh, I'm so sorry, Mack—poor old Mack!" said Philip kneeling on the carpet beside his friend. "I didn't mean to do it, Mack. Forgive me, won't you, poor old doggie?"

But Mack was dead.

Philip spent the night weeping. His parents tried to calm him, saying:

"After all he was only a dog, and you meant him no harm. We will buy you another one."

"He was my friend and I killed him—my friend and I killed him," said Philip over and over again. Even when Mack had been placed in a beautiful casket and buried in the loveliest corner of the garden where the lilacs would bloom in May and cover his grave with their pink-white petals, Philip would weep at the mention of his name and repeat again and again:

"He was my friend—my friend—and I killed him."

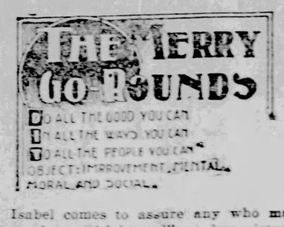
One day a month after Mack was buried under the lilac bushes Philip was missing for a long time. They looked for him all over the house, and at last found him at the little desk in his own room fast asleep with dried tears on his cheeks. And on the desk near his folded hands was this picture he had drawn of Mack as an angel, and the verse written under it:

Oh, my dog, my dog, my dog
I have killed you as dead as a log.
I didn't know it was loaded, Mack,
'Till I heard the pistol crack.
Wait for me, my angel doggie,
Then come with me.

Then Philip must have cried himself to sleep. The verse was never finished for Philip's father took it and the picture while Philip still slept and put them away among his own papers, where they remained for many a year.

The next day Philip's parents took him on a visit to distant relatives, where there were a number of happy children in whose games he soon learned to join, and in this way he ceased to grieve about poor Mack, though he has never ceased to mourn him as a true and faithful friend.—Ex.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS



Isabel comes to assure any who may have been "frightened" at her picture, which appeared last week. We are none of us so timid as that would indicate, indeed, Miss Prudence thinks we would not be "frightened" to meet the original of the picture, but rather, very glad.

Miss Prudence, why did they all run as I opened the door, and why do you grasp that heavy paper weight so tightly? Since they know how big and stout I am, they are afraid of me, and is that paper weight to be used in self defense?" Here is Invalid and Cowboy, they couldn't run. Are you not glad of it? See these wild flowers I have brought for you, broke my last chrysanthemum, that I might have a bouquet for each of you.

Before the rest get over their fright, and return, Miss Prudence, I want to ask you, do you not think that Raven (and some others, too) real aggravating? There I stood holding the cage open, and not one offered to "show" him in, he soared so high, thro' I stood on a chair, I could not reach him.

Mrs. N. E., I would like to go to your school, but Indian Bill not yours; your name even makes me tremble.

Peggy Short and Dimple, I will not shake hands (don't scream) but will slip my arms around each waist. See that teacher crowd grin! Never mind, I believe there are more farmers among you than you think. It's a queer idea some have that farmers know scarcely anything. I know several who are graduates from our best colleges.

Those who wish to join us step over the line; that's right, Florence. Who'll be the next? Don't you think our quartette is nice? I know three are, but they answer me: "Isabel we don't wish to hurt your feelings." Miss Prudence smiles just like she understood. I'll confess it's too deep for me. Boys, don't be backward; the embrace is not compulsory.

See how perplexed Mrs. N. E. looks, standing with one foot on each side of the line! No, mind, stand right where you are; those feet are large enough that we will be satisfied with one of 'em.

Dear Chaperon, who said Christmas tree? Are we to have one? It has been such a long time since we did have one, if it would not be too much work for you, I think it would be real nice to have a "tree" or something.

Several letters have been received from members who are interested in our Reading Circle, and all show that careful study has been given to the poem given for their consideration. Others will probably take up this work, if not on this first subject, upon future ones, and it can not but be helpful to us all to read thoughtfully the good works of various authors. First we give the letter from our Egyptian Friend, who suggested the study of the Deserted Village.

Dear M. G. R's:—The life of Oliver Goldsmith was one of many changes, and is worthy our careful study, but not altogether our imitation.

To all outward appearance it was a series of great blunders, following each other in quick succession, yet they seem to have been necessary to prepare him for his literary work. He traveled extensively, was a close observer, and possessed the rare ability of looking into the very soul of things. To me the most striking features of "The Deserted Village" are: its simplicity of language, its beauty of expression, and its vivid pen pictures.

In the preparation of "The Deserted Village," it appears that the author had in mind no great principle which he wished to impress upon the minds of mankind, but it was the result of mere fancy and meditation.

Em. T. Head, sends her thoughts in her usual, clear, concise manner, and in the legible writing that makes all of her manuscript a delight to the compositor and editor:

In reading the selection my first thought is of the uncertainty of life and the unavoidable changes wrought by time.

In the paragraph referring to the removal to the "Wilds of America" there seems to be an illustration of the oft-quoted stanza, "Westward the Star of Empire takes its way."

However, I think the author's chief thought of the inhumanity of the wealthy classes in making all things else subservient to their pleasure. (By the way, Goldsmith's views on this question have outlived him). The author also proved, at least to his own satisfaction, that riches and happiness are not synonomous.

Coralyn has selected a few quotations from the poem, which seem to express her ideas of the meaning of the whole:

I think these quotations from "The Deserted Village" give, in substance, the author's teaching—

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates and men decay.

A time there was, ere England's griefs began,
When every rood of ground maintained its man;

But times are alter'd; trade's unfeeling train
Usurp the land, and dispossess the swain.

Then at the close of the poem he calls on the spirit of "sweet poetry" to "Teach erring man to spurn the rage of gain."

I received much pleasure and information in reading a sketch of Goldsmith's life in addition to the poem.

It is a most excellent idea that of reading the life of the author of any work you are studying, as you will obtain a better general idea of the ideas he intends to convey, for it is always true that a man, or woman, puts themselves to a great extent into everything they write.

Coralyn sends word to Dimple that her interest while reading "Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush," centered in Margaret Howe and her "tad o' pairts." She assures Isabel that she is not "lost," but is only listening. For the kind words she writes to Chaperone, she will please accept thanks.

"Helen," sends a more elaborate report of her reading, and it is so good that I shall give it all to you:

The poem, as a whole, seems to be a cry against the encroachments of the rich of Goldsmith's native land upon the poor.

"Sweet Auburn" was the poet's boyhood home, and after an absence of a number of years he returns to the village only to find it deserted by all his former friends, and everything he had known and loved sadly changed.

Hear him describe the village as he had known it. There were the cot, the farm, the never-failing brook with its busy mill, the rural church, the seats beneath the hawthorne. Follow, in imagination, as he leads from one loved spot to another, telling of their charms, and of the happy, contented people who lived about them.

Then listen while he tells how changed all is. The brook is weed-choked, and requented only by the bittern that builds its nest among the sedges; the cottages are gone from the green; the tall grass grows unheeded and hides the mouldering walls. All is changed.

What a perfect place the village must have been, and how happy must have been its people—people perfectly contented with their lot. Noble men and women were they, living for something higher than the vanities of the world, simple in their faith, but none the less true. The village preacher the poet makes a perfect type of Godliness. His was a life so filled with good deeds to his fellowman that all thoughts of self were crowded out, a life devoted to his people. "To them his heart, his love, his griefs were given,
But all his serious thoughts had rest in heaven."

This grand life was, in a measure, at least, the result of its environments, surroundings which might have produced other lives as pure, but a change came. The rich man came out from the city and claimed the village land for his own. Soon, in place of the pretty cottages of the contented poor were seen the parks and lakes of the land owner, and the village became the homes of luxury.

But, although the rich abide there, the village is deserted and left to ruin for the peasantry are gone—"scattered by famine from the smiling land."

Nor does the poet confine this deplorable condition to "Sweet Auburn," but tells the same sad story of his entire native land. As the village is deserted by the rural people, and is fast falling to decay, so with the country. Poverty is everywhere forced to flee as luxury advances, until at last the question comes, "Where shall the poor seek a home?" and the poet answers: "To distant climes a dreary scene, where half the convex world intrudes between."

They must go to America—America, wild and uncultivated, but offering them a home—and begin life anew amid far different scenes.

And as the poet sees them leaving he sees following in their wake the rural virtues—

"Contented toil and hospitable care,
And kind connubial tenderness are there,
And piety with wishes placed above,
And steady loyalty and faithful love."

All these the poet sees "Pass from the shore and darken all the strand," and the country is left desolate.

This resume of the story will give a very clear idea of it to such of our number as may not have had an opportunity of reading it. This is what Miss Prudence has been endeavoring to expand to you as her idea of a helpful column. These M. G. R's. have studied the given subject carefully and thoughtfully, and then have given in an intelligent and concise manner the result of their study for the benefit of others. Each one has presented a different thought, and yet all have about the same general conception of the author's idea. The Chaperone thanks them for so ably illustrating one of her pet ideas, and trusts that our Reading Circle may develop into a thoroughly good study class, and that more will take part in the January meeting when Longfellow's "Psalm of Life" will be discussed.

Merry-Go-Rounders, listen! The Blade has upon hand a number of the beautiful badges which were gotten up some time ago for your benefit. As they seem too expensive, the publishers have generously decided to cut the price of those which are left in two, that is, so long as they last, they will be sold for 25 cents each. Those who wish them will need to order quickly, as there are not nearly enough to go around, and "first come, first served." Now is your chance to secure this lovely pin.

OUR WONDER COLUMN

1.—WHO WAS HE?

He was a celebrated American engineer born near Lancaster, Pa., in 1765. When he was 17 years old he set up as a painter of portraits and landscapes in Philadelphia, and was very successful. In 1793 he visited London, where he remained eight years. He then went to the West. In 1796 he was associated in a project to improve inland navigation, and in 1796 published a treatise

News of the Week.

The Blade is a newspaper for free American citizens, and under the above head, aims to give first, those events which are the history and progress of the world for the week—those which every intelligent man needs to know and should know; second, all important political events; and lastly, the leading minor occurrences that possess interest to every edu-

THE ANGEL OF DEATH

Stole Silently In and Bore Away Nancy Allison McKinley.

Canton, O., Dec. 13.—Soon after dawn on Sunday the bell of the First Methodist Episcopal church slowly tolled off eighty-nine strokes. This revival of an old custom to announce the death and age of a member of the congregation had been made by the sexton at the solicitation of some of the old members of the church who were Mrs. McKinley's warm friends for many years. Mrs. McKinley was dead.

The tolling of the bell conveyed the news to the citizens of Canton of the death of one of the city's best loved and most respected residents. The news had been expected but it was none the less sad.

The severance of the immortal from the mortal occurred a little after 2 o'clock Sunday morning. The closing scene of this noble and exemplary life was calm and peaceful and beautiful. The angel of death stole silently into the circle of children and near relatives who were attending the inanimate form and silently served the summons upon the soul to return to its maker.

Tranquil and serene was the river of life when Mrs. McKinley crossed over. There was not a wave nor a ripple to disturb the lethargic sleep of the closing hours of life as it was transformed into the sleep of death. So quietly and peacefully was the transition accomplished that the exact moment could not be noted. For half an hour it could scarcely be said whether the deep repose of the body was that of life or of death. The First Methodist church, in which the services are to be held, is the one in which Mother McKinley worshiped during her residence in Canton, and in which she was found almost every Sunday morning, only serious indisposition or important circumstances keeping her away. Three weeks ago yesterday she was in her pew as usual, and though she was nearly 80 years of age, her attendance had been regular all the while. This is also the congregation with which the President has always been associated. It was in this church that he was superintendent of the Sunday school 30 years ago, and here that he always attended services when in Canton, usually going with his mother. They last attended together last September, when the President was here during his summer vacation.

It is a coincidence that Mrs. McKinley died at almost the identical hour of the day he did her husband on Thanksgiving, five years ago.

The Allison Family.

Before becoming the wife of the President's father, Mrs. McKinley was Nancy Campbell Allison. The Allisons came originally from England and settled in Virginia, but that branch of the family from which Mrs. McKinley came went with Virginia to Green county, Pennsylvania, where Abner Allison, Mrs. McKinley's father, was born, and where he married Ann Campbell, of Scotch-German descent. Early in the present century Mr. and Mrs. Allison, with their several children, came to Ohio, moving by pack horses, Mrs. Allison riding horseback the entire distance, holding in front of her their youngest child. They located on a farm near New Lisbon, and there, in the year 1809, Mrs. McKinley, their sixth child, was born and christened Nancy Campbell Allison. Her girlhood was passed on the farm and in the little town of New Lisbon, and in the year 1827 she married William McKinley, and they removed to Fairfield, and later to Niles and Poland before locating in Canton.

Nine children were born o fthe union of William McKinley and Nancy Allison McKinley. They are: David Allison McKinley, deceased; Anna McKinley, deceased; James McKinley, deceased; Mary McKinley, deceased; Helen Minerva McKinley, of Canton; Sarah Elizabeth McKinley, now Mrs. A. J. Duncan, of Cleveland; William McKinley, President of the United States; Abigail Celia McKinley, deceased; Abner McKinley, of New York.

William McKinley, sr., died on November 24, 1892, at the age of 85. Since then Mother McKinley has maintained the homestead.

THE FUNERAL.

Canton in Mourning for the Venerable Dead.

Canton, O., Dec. 14.—While the family and friends and neighbors of the late Mrs. Nancy Allison McKinley are paying their last tribute of respect and while the earthly remains are being laid to rest in beautiful West Lawn cemetery at the side of her husband and others of her family who have preceded her over the river of life, all else is abandoned in Canton.

Business houses closed at 10 o'clock to remain closed until after the services. The public schools closed at noon for the remainder of the day, and business of all kinds is practically suspended.

The city council at a meeting last night arranged to attend the funeral in a body and ordered all offices in the city building closed during the hours of the funeral.

The court house closed at noon and the officials and clerks, together with the members of the bar attended the services in a body, as decided upon at a meeting this morning.

The service at the church was preceded by brief private services at the house attended by the immediate family and the Washington guests. The house services consisted of a prayer by Rev. Manchester and the reading of the twenty-third psalm by Rev. Macafee.

The First Methodist Episcopal church in which the services were held is the largest church in the city. It is on West Tuscarawas street, about four blocks from the McKinley homestead. It is a modern structure, seating in the auditorium proper some 900 people and with the auditorium accommodations for nearly 2,000 are furnished. As early as 11 o'clock the congregation began to assemble, and long before the hour set for the service every seat was occupied and extra seats were placed in the aisles. The front seats of the middle tier were reserved for the family and those attending the services at the house.

As the casket containing the remains was tenderly placed in front of the chancel rail the Aeolonian quartet, of male voices, chanted, "Still, Still With Thee."

Rev. E. P. Hertruck, of Trinity Reformed church, whose pastorate in Canton is of the longest in the local clergy, offered a fervent prayer. This was followed by the reading of the hymn, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," by Rev. Milligan, of the First Presbyterian church and the singing o fthe same by the quartet.

Rev. Dr. Hall, of Trinity Lutheran church, read a scriptural lesson from First Corinthians, part of the fifteenth chapter. Former Mayor R. A. Cassidy then read the memorial adopted by the board of officers of the church of which Mother McKinley had so long been a member, and the quartet sang "Lead Kindly Light."

Rev. Dr. Manchester, who was a comrade in arms of the President during the war as a member of the famous Twenty-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and who has been the pastor of the First M. E. church for several years, delivered a short oration in which he dwelt upon the character of the beloved departed and spoke of her as she was known by the neighbors and friends in Canton. In part, this beautiful tribute was as follows:

I think the first feeling that comes to us all to-day is one of personal bereavement. She who has gone out from our midst was a friend. The nation knows her as the distinguished mother; we of the home city knew her as one whose kindly word and smile have been a cheer and a benediction to many a heart and home.

Her her "the long, long night" has passed. The morning breaks at last. But her place upon this earth will be vacant forever. Hers is an unspeakable gain, but ours is an unutterable loss.

It is given only now and then to a pilgrim to spend so many years upon the earth, and she wrought for herself a place in life that can never be filled by another. To go out and in for nearly nine decades of years, to see generations come and go, to see the kingdoms of earth rise and fall; to outlive the companions of childhood and womanhood, and still to live on, is to become a part of many lives. But the great comforts of this hour are those spiritual ones that we have a right to appropriate to ourselves when we remember that above everything else Mother McKinley was a Christian woman. It is not given to many to have such grace of life, such perfection of character as crowned her whose going out from among us we mourn to-day. If I were to indulge in an analysis of her character I think I would place first of all her glorious motherhood. The wisest man said of such as she: "The heart of her husband doeth safely trust in her. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up and call her blessed. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates." In such a home as this and in such maternal love to be worthy such divine portraiture as this and she was worthy of it. Her motherhood was the crowning glory of her days. She was, by divine right, the gentle mistress of her own house. Always tender, and true in her loving sympathies, self poised and sturdy in her personal uprightness, she ruled like a queen over her own home. The law of kindness was the law of her life—and none knew her there but to feel its genial influence of her presence. She might have been a proud mother, but, I think no one heard her say so. Her great loving heart throbbed with tenderest anxieties for those whom the kind father had given her and "her children arise up and call her blessed."

Another characteristic of Mother McKinley was her unvarying cheerfulness. When her pastor suggested to her once, that the way must be growing brighter as she advanced toward her heavenly home, she replied that it had been bright all the way. And yet there had been many and more bereavements. She trod for weary years the path of widowhood. She laid away her loved ones one after another. But her loving cheer was never abated. It was as if the sunlight from the throne of God played upon her soul, and kept it warm and bright. And, after all, that was the sublime secret of her daily existence. She might have said to a sorrowful, grasping world in the words of the Master whom she loved: "I have meat to eat that ye know not of."

Her faith that God does all things well, that He makes no mistakes, was the one creed of her Christian life. For she was a Christian indeed. Undemonstrative and unobtrusive yet she was well known as one of the disciples of Christ. Until the infirmities of increasing years made it impossible, she frequented the prayer service, and when she could no longer do that, kept her place in the morning service on the Lord's day—where her strong but gentle face was a constant inspiration to pastor and worshipper. Now, the end crowns the work. She has come down to her grave, like the well ripened grain, ready for the harvest.

She grew old beautifully, because she walked with God.

After the singing of "Nearer My God to Thee" the benediction was pronounced by Rev. Dr. Macafee of Columbus, pastor of the Broad street Methodist church, of that city, which the President attended while he was governor of Ohio.

The lid of the casket was then lifted and the large congregation as well as many who had been unable to gain admission to the church filed past to take a last look of all that was mortal of Mother McKinley. The family and the friends entered the carriages and, followed by thousands, proceeded to West Lawn cemetery where the body was laid to rest in the family lot.

RUBBER TRUST WON.

War in Prices Will Be Stopped at Once.

New York, Dec. 13.—The rubber trust has captured its competitors and again has exclusive control of the rubber business of the country. The war in prices on rubber goods, which was begun last March, has been declared off and the full schedule of prices will soon be made operative. This war was begun by Joseph Bannigan, once president of the trust. He purchased the Saxton woolen mills at Providence, R. I., equipped them for the manufacture of rubber goods of all descriptions, and placed his sons in charge. His avowed intention was seconded by the Boston Rubber Shoe company, which has its headquarters at Boston, and an immense plant at Malden, Mass.

The Boston company began the fight and cut after cut was made until the prices of rubber shoes and all sorts of wearing apparel in which rubber played a part fell 18 or 25 per cent.

While the contest was being waged between these two big concerns Joseph Bannigan rushed to completion his sons' factory at Providence. Overtures were, however, made to him in the name of innocent stockholders through New England, whose interest in the rubber trust was caused very largely through his connection with it, to stop the warfare. He was appealed to on the ground that his action was depressing the value of rubber shares.

Either for this reason, or as the result of more potent influence brought to bear upon him he has again joined hands with the trust. His sons' factory will either be acquired by the trust or will be operated under a cast-iron agreement for a long term of years. The first outward sign of this renewed association occurred during the last week when the New York Belting and Packing company was purchased by a syndicate in the interest of the United States Rubber company, which is the official name of the rubber trust.

Charles R. Flint acknowledged that both he and Mr. Bannigan were in the syndicate. His explanation of this combination between officers of the trust and its most bitter enemy was: "Mr. Bannigan is enterprising. He saw that this was a good thing and went into it."

Lobsters for the Pacific.

San Francisco, Dec. 10.—A carload of tautegun and egg-bearing lobsters have arrived from Massachusetts and have been deposited near the Farralon islands. The fish commission car, which brought these ought will go to Anderson, Shasta county, where it will take on about six million quinnat salmon spawn from the Battle Creek hatchery. These are to be distributed in the Upper Hudson river and in all the streams in the Northwestern states.

Costly Fire in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia, Dec. 13.—The damage resulting from Saturday night's fire at John and James Dobson's wholesale and retail carpet salesrooms, Nos. 809 and 811 Chestnut street, will reach over $800,000 in building and stock, which was fully covered by insurance.

We will give

$1000.00

to the person who will send us the largest number of subscribers between now and April 15, 1898. This is in addition to a liberal commission paid for every subscriber secured.

We shall divide $11,500 among 440 agents who do the best work for us between now and April 15, 1898.

THE CURTIS PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA

MURDER MYSTERY.

Foot and Ankle Fast to the Trucks of a Sleeper.

Mexico, Mo., Dec. 10.—Strewn for a quarter of a mile on the Chicago & Alton railroad near this city, the mangled remains of a man, supposed to be S. H. Mayne, of Princeton, Iowa, from letters on his person, were found yesterday morning. Train 51 of the Alton passed through Mexico at 11:25 p. m. last night and is supposed to have run over the man. The remains were brought to this place.

Chicago, Dec. 10.—The right foot and ankle of a man, with a large wire nail driven through the great toe, were found hanging to the axle of a Pullman sleeping car yesterday morning on the Denver train of the Chicago & Alton Railroad company. From the position of the foot and owing to the presence of the nail, as well as the mass of flesh and blood that covered the running gear of the sleeper, it is believed by the police of the Desplaines street station that a murder has been committed.

The police believe that a man had been tied to the railroad track, his feet spiked to the ties, and that he had then been left to meet certain death under the train. On this theory inquiries are now being made at every point on the road between Chicago and Denver. The spike, which was in the center of the great toe, was about five inches long and of the kind used in certain parts of railroad construction, where a delicate yet strong piece of metal is used to hold wood together. There was no blood on the engine, which the railroad men say, proves that the accident or murder, as the case may be, occurred west of Bloomington, as a change of engines is made at that point.

DURRANT'S CASE.

Dismissed by Supreme Court and He Will Be Resentenced.

San Francisco, Dec. 9.—Late yesterday afternoon the supreme court dispelled the last hope of W. H. T. Durrant, the murderer of Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams, by disposing in a summary manner of his two appeals. In a written opinion from the pen of Chief Justice Beatty, which is concurred in by all but one of his associates the court affirms the judgment of Judge Bahers in remanding the prisoner to San Quentin until the date set for his execution, but reverses the sentencing of Durrant to be hanged on Nov. 11, and remands the case to the superior court with instructions to proceed according to law. As the remittance was ordered issued forthwith and the court holds that the execution can only be stayed now by the issuance of a certificate of probable cause, it only remains to re-sentence the condemned murderer, which will probably be done today.

Justice Garoutte alone dissented from this opinion, maintaining that Durrant's appeal should have been dismissed as the time required by law for their perfection had been allowed to lapse.

TEXAS CATTLE.

Two Big Syndicates Will Buy Them by Thousands.

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 9.—Representatives of two great syndicates which control the Cuban cattle trade, S. F. Berndes & Co. and Centro De Los Encomenderos, have just effected a consolidation and are now here arranging for the purchase of big herds of cattle in Texas and Northern Mexico. J. R. Stahle, of Kansas City, will have charge of this department and will make this market his headquarters.

The Havana trade alone will require ten thousand of beef cattle a month for an indefinite period. Their business will make San Antonio one of the largest cattle centers in the country. In addition to supplying the Cuban beef markets the Cuban cattle trust as now constituted will supply the island with stock cattle and work oxen. It is estimated that this trade will be fully three years' duration in its present proportions.

POSTOFFICE ROBBERY.

Thieves Secured Treasure Amounting to $100,000.

New York, Dec. 11.—It was learned that one of the biggest robberies in the history of the New York postoffice occurred on November 9. The amount involved is said to be in the neighborhood of $100,000, and was taken from registered letters in the railway mail service on that section of the Central railway of New Jersey, known as the New York, Somerville & Easton branch. On November 9 it is stated that two bags containing $30,000 were taken. How long the defalcations had gone on before that date has not yet been ascertained. Major Charles F. Lewis, of the Philadelphia branch of the government secret service, was in this city to-day investigating the robbery, which has been kept secret until now by the postal authorities.

ANOTHER LYNCHING.

Horrible Crime of a Negro Fiend in Mississippi.

Wesson, Miss., Dec. 10.—A most atrocious murder was committed last night in Simpson county, 20 miles from here. Brown Smith, a farmer, and a son of ex-Representative Edward Smith, left his family at his home in the country to go to town. Yesterday morning when he returned he found his wife and four children dead and a fifth child, a girl, dying. The latter revived enough to tell that the man who committed the deed was a negro and described him. A posse is now on the track of the murderer, and Sheriffs McNair, of Lincoln, and Thompson, of Copiah counties, have gone to the scene, each with a pack of trained bloodhounds. The negro will undoubtedly be lynched.

—Nervous people find relief by enriching their blood with Hood's Sarsaparilla, which is the only true blood purifier and nerve tonic.

AGAINST SNORING.

Rights of Passengers on Night Trains to Be Tested.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 13.—J. J. Miller, editor of the Santa Fe Monitor, will test in the courts the rights of passengers on railroad trains who must spend sleepless nights because of loud snoring.

Friday night Miller was a passenger on a west-bound Santa Fe train and wanted to sleep. Near him was Sheriff Bills of Garden City, who kept a continual snoring, disturbing all other passengers in the car.

Miller believes the courts will protect the traveling public against men who snore and compel railroad and sleeping car companies to have porters awaken the snorer when he begins to saw the air.

He says such an order if issued by these companies would be hailed with rejoicing by the traveling public from ocean to ocean.

PAYING TAXES.

Pointed Evidence of Prosperity in Rural Districts of Kansas.

Independence, Kas., Dec. 11.—County Treasurer J. R. Blair reports that the people of Montgomery county are paying their taxes better this year than ever before in his knowledge.

This is especially true of the farmers, who seem to have plenty of ready money and are anxious to pay their taxes at once, and secure the rebate.

It has been many years since the farmers of this section have been in such good circumstances, and the banks are suffering in their business as a result. It is almost impossible to loan their money, and the loans they have made are rapidly being paid off.

Eclipse Expedition.

London, Dec. 10.—Sir Joseph Norman Lockyer, who has charge of one of the three official expeditions sent out by the eclipse committee of the Royal Astronomical Society to observe the total solar eclipse of next month, left here to-day for Colorado. He was accompanied by Dr. W. J. Lockyer and Prof. A. Fowler of the Royal Society. The party takes with it a number of telescopes and a vast quantity of photographic apparatus.

STAMPEDE FROM DAWSON.

Klondikers in a Rush Back to Civilization.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 13.—By steamer Topeka from Dyea news is received that more than a thousand ill-provisioned men stampeded from Dawson during the latter part of October and impelled by the haunting fears of famine are now madly forcing their way over the mountains.

Auk, the Indian mail carrier who brings this report left the Yukon capital fully ten days after the Dalton party. He says the vanguard of the terror stricken army is following less than a week behind him. Auk declares that fully 25 per cent of the stampeding party will never live to recite the terrors of the flight north. The river steamers Bella and Weare it now appears did not land more than 100 tons of provisions on their arrival in Dawson in the early part of October, owing to their having been held up at Circle City.

The only bright view of the situation is that the crossing of the pass above Dyea and Skaguay has lately been greatly improved and within a month will be in excellent condition.

Dyea parties headed by George F. Ulmer propose to go to the relief of the hungry at Dawson. They will make the United States government an offer to deliver 50,000 pounds of provisions within 50 days after the time of starting for Dawson for the sum of $75,000; they have already 5,000 pounds of provisions cached at Lake Bennett which they will take in over the Chilkoot Pass this winter. Ulmer will go south by the next steamer to lay his proposition before the secretary of war by wire.

It is stated that the material for the proposed railway over Takau Pass has already been shipped from the east.

$1,090 FOR $500.

When Bryan Exchanged American for Mexican Dollars.

Laredo, Texas, Dec. 10.—W. J. Bryan and party arrived in this city, the gateway to the Republic of Mexico, yesterday and immediately transferred to a special car on the Mexican National railroad. Accompanied by several prominent Mexican officials dispatched by President Diaz to meet them, they crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico. As soon as the Mexican side of the river was reached the train was brought to a halt, and a telegram from President Diaz welcoming Mr. Bryan to the country was read.

After the train pulled up to the station, where an enormous crowd of the representative people of Laredo was awaiting his arrival, champagne and cake were served and several speeches of welcome were made, to which Mr. Bryan briefly responded. Preparations have been made all along the line for his reception. Mr. Bryan was repeatedly referred to in the speeches which were made by purely Mexican citizens as "our great silver friend." Before leaving San Antonio, where he spent four hours this morning, Mr. Bryan changed $500 of American bills into Mexican money. He received of the latter $1,090 and a forcible cheap money object lesson.

CHARLES FLEISCHMANN DEAD.

His Thirty Years Career as a Business Man in Cincinnati.

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 10.—The Hon. Charles Fleischmann died at 4:30 a. m. to-day at his home in Avondale from paralysis. The stroke which was the second, came at 2:30 Thursday morning, and he never regained consciousness.

Mr. Fleischmann was born in Hungary in 1834, and came to America in 1865, and to Cincinnati in 1868. The foundation of his great fortune was laid by the invention of patented machinery for use in distilleries. This was followed by utilizing a by-product in distilling for the manufacture of compressed yeast. His business interests were various and manifold.

Until recently Mr. Fleischmann was president of the Commercial-Tribune company. He was also president of the Market National bank. He had an extensive interest in the turf and was the employer of the famous jockey Tod Sloane. Mr. Fleischmann served two terms as Senator of Hamilton from this district. He held a number of offices, such as fire commissioner, and trustee for various associations and societies. His wife and two sons, Julius and Max, and one daughter, Mrs. C. R. Holmes, survive him.

CUBANS STARVING.

Thousands of Cubans Famishing in New York.

New York, Dec. 10.—The Journal and Advertiser says: Weyler's policy of extermination that he called reconcentration, has resulted in an enormous influx of Cubans into New York. Hundreds, if not thousands of these are dying of hunger here. The number of these refugees is variously estimated at from 12,000 to 20,000. Perhaps the great majority are absolutely without means. There are men and women among them who were worth hundreds of thousands of dollars before the war began, but who are now penniless. Some of these are working as waiters, porters or seamstresses.

Emilio Argamonte, president of the Marti Charity Association, says that many of them have actually died from starvation, and that the majority have preferred to live quietly in misery rather than let their desperate wants be known to those who could help them, but who have in the past known them to be people of wealth, influence and refinement.

IN A SMOKE STACK.

Close Call for a San Francisco Boilemaker.

San Francisco, Dec. 10.—Michael Purcell, a boiler-maker, was making some repairs inside the smokestack of the steamer Wellington at the Folsom street wharf, when six fires were started below him. He was strapped on a chair suspended from the top of the stack about 40 feet from the dampers below. It was impossible to go up, and to go down without assistance meant being roasted alive on the hot dampers.

Dense volumes of hot smoke began rolling up the stack while Purcell loudly shouted for help. The heat increased every moment until the boilermaker's clothing caught fire. He beat on the iron with all his power and shouted for fully ten minutes before his helper on the outside, Martin Philpot, realized his plight and rescued him just as the rope supporting him was catching fire. Purcell lies at his home in a critical condition.

KANSAS PROBATE JUDGES.

Careless Legislation Leaves Fifty Practically Without Salary.

Topeka, Kan., Dec. 13.—A condition confronts 50 of the 105 probate judges of Kansas which is anything but pleasant and consoling.

It has just been discovered that a big blunder was made by the legislature last winter which, after January 1, will cut off the salaries of these officials. In its efforts to retrench and reform the Populist legislature passed a general fee and salary bill, which will leave the probate judges in the western half of the state practically without compensation.

Heretofore these officers received a salary of $500 a year and all fees of the office. The new law gives them half of the fees, and in repealing the old law failed to provide for a salary. The new law compels the probate judge to keep his office open six days in each week.

In 50 of the counties of Kansas the annual fees will not average $100 a year.

Brother of Mark Twain Dead.

Keokuk, Iowa, Dec. 13.—Orio Clemens, brother of the famous author, Mark Twain, died suddenly at his home in this city Saturday, aged 72.

(Bears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

THE GREAT HUXLEY.

What Huxley, the Great English Scientist, Considered the Best Start in Life.

The great English scientist, Huxley, said the best start in life is a sound stomach. Weak stomachs fail to digest food properly because they lack the proper quantity of digestive acids (lactic and hydrochloric) and peptogenic products; the most sensible remedy in all cases of indigestion, is to take after each meal one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets because they supply in a pleasant harmless form all the elements that weak stomachs lack.

The regular use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets will cure every form of stomach trouble except cancer of the stomach.

They increase flesh, insure pure blood, strong nerves, a bright eye and clear complexion, because all these result only from wholesome food well digested.

Nearly all druggists sell Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets at 50 cents full sized package.

Send for Free book on Stomach Troubles to Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

EXPRESS GUARDS

Drove Off a Gang of Train Robbers in Arizona.

Denver, Dec. 10.—A special from El Paso, Tex., says:

Meagre particulars were received in this city late last night from San Simon, a small station just east of Willcox, Ariz., on the Southern Pacific, of a train hold up. Train No. 20, the Sunset limited, had just left Stein's Pass, N. M., near the Arizona line when the engineer noticed a danger signal in front and immediately applied the air-brakes. No sooner was the train brought to a stop than five men stepped out from their hiding places near the track, all heavily armed. One covered the engineer and fireman with his Winchester while the others gave their attention to the train proper, more especially to the express car, firing their guns in the air and otherwise frightening the passengers. At this point the guards in the express car took a hand in the fusilade. Thirty or forty shots are said to have been fired by both sides. One Wells-Fargo guard, Jennings by name, succeeded in killing robber Cullen, who was nearest to the car and who was evidently the leader, for as soon as the other robbers noticed his body lying on the ground they lost courage and made a break for their horses, but another bullet from Jennings' Winchester evidently struck one of the fleeing robbers, as he was seen to fall and was assisted out of range by his comrades.

No express money was stolen, and none of the passengers were hurt.

BIBLES FOR THE WORLD.

How the Scriptures Have Been Distributed in Foreign Lands.

New York, Dec. 13.—A statement issued to-day by the American Bible Society concerning its work in foreign lands during the last year shows that it involved an expenditure of $192,292.32, and the circulation of 767,528 volumes of the Holy Scriptures. Of these more than half, 405,000 volumes, were distributed in China; 50,000 in Japan; 57,000 in the Levant; 60,000 in South America; 33,000 in Central America and Mexico; 32,000 in Siam and Laos; 40,000 in Russia; 20,000 in France; 12,000 in Spain and Austria; 10,000 in India besides smaller numbers in Africa, Arabia and Corea. In accomplishing this work the agents and correspondents of the society employed 382 men, each working on an average more than eight months. The distribution of the Bible is regarded as of prime importance in all foreign missionary operations, and the co-operation of the American Bible Society with the mission boards receives from them the most cordial recognition. Hence the society will issue an appeal to pastors and others, that in the special meetings which are to be held early in January in observance of the annual week of prayer, due emphasis may be laid upon the importance of extending the circulation of the Bible among all nations during the closing years of the nineteenth century, and especially in those parts of the world where the Bible is an unknown book.

WAS A REBEL SPY.

Government Gets Tip Through Application for Pension.

Crown Point, Ind., Dec. 14.—After 33 years Uncle Sam has just discovered that a rebel spy was in the Union army at Washington when the raid was made upon the national capital, and he now has men looking for him.

Assistant United States Pension Agent Stanton visited this county last week in search of Walter De Coursey, alias B. W. O'Grady, at one time county surveyor in this county.

In the early '60s De Coursey, or O'Grady, was connected with the war department, was married and lived at the capital city with his wife, who is now living in Canada and is asking for a pension, claiming De Coursey is dead, but it is known here that he is living somewhere in California.

A day or so before the raid was made on the national capital he departed very mysteriously from that city and nothing was ever heard of him by the officials. By the request for a pension by Mrs. De Coursey, on investigation it was learned he was a spy of the rebels. After he left Washington he came to Lake county and then removed to Valparaiso in 1879. Thence it is thought he left his family and went to California.

COLORADO MINERS

Are Enjoying a Substantial Increase in Wages.

Creede, Colo., Dec. 9.—After December 1, wages for miners will be $3 a day instead of $2.50. The increase was made voluntary by the mine owners.

Find of Uranium.

Denver, Col., Dec. 11.—Uranium has been discovered near Blackhawk, Col. The mineral is worth $1,500 per ton, and the agents of a French syndicate have announced that they will buy all that can be produced, as it is much desired by the French government for hardening and solidifying gun metal and armor plate.

FOREIGN NEWS.

SPANISH DISCOURAGED.

Even Though the Rebels Have Been Driven Away From the City.

Havana, Dec. 14.—The plans of the insurgents to strike a blow near the city have been checked, according to the official account, but the concentration of their forces is such as to make it unlikely that the insurgent bands will surrender, as the Spanish authorities have been hoping.

The business concerns of the city are much discouraged by the actual situation. They do not now look forward to a speedy end of the revolution. All say that they have abandoned the hope that the insurgents will surrender or accept the conditions of autonomy.

It is officially announced that the Spanish forces under the command of General Pando in the province of Puerto Principe, have been pushing insurgent leader Gen. Maximo Gomez so closely that he was obliged with about 200 men of his escort to seek refuge in the woods and mountains of Las Delicias.

The commissioners sent by Gen. Pando to different parts of the island with instructions to negotiate with the insurgents for their acceptance of the autonomous form of government proposed by Spain, have not returned in a single case, which seems to confirm the report that some of them have been hanged by the insurgents and others have retreated to remain with the enemy.

PARTITION OF CHINA.

Action of Germany May Be First Step of a General Grab.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 14.—The Novosti says that the absence of protests from the other powers at Germany's evident determination to remain at Kiao Chau bay indicates that the partition of China has actually begun and will proceed quickly.

Another newspaper expresses the belief that the United States, among other powers, may object to the permanent occupation of Kiao Chau bay by Germany. Official circles, however, appear indifferent to the step taken by Germany.

GERMANY WINS.

Celestials Give Up and Cede Territory About Kiao Chau.

Pekin, Dec. 11.—The German-Chinese difficulty is practically settled. The Germans refuse to discuss the occupation of Kiao Chau Bay. The governor of Shan-Tung province has been removed from office, but will not be any further degraded; no monopoly of mines and railroads is conceded to Germany, but that country is given preference. Finally the area immediately surrounding Kiao Chau Bay is set apart exclusively for Germany. China yields on all other points.

Berlin, Dec. 11.—It was semi-officially announced to-day that the report that Germany would evacuate Kiao Chau Bay for a coaling station in the Sam-Sah inlet was unfounded.

More Soldiers for China.

Berlin, Dec. 8.—Emperor William has ordered the number of volunteers for the China expedition to be raised to 1,000 men.

FRENCH TROOPS.

Had Lively Fighting With Natives Before Occupying Nikki.

Lagos, West Coast of Africa, Dec. 8.—Additional advices just received from the interior say the French troops had five engagements with the natives before effectively occupying Nikki, the capital of Borgu. The king of that country fled to the bush.

Both France and Great Britain claim that the Borgu territory is within the sphere of their influence. Great Britain claims the whole country of Borgu under the Anglo-French convention of 1890.

Captain Lugard, for Great Britain, out-distanced Commander Decoeur in making a treaty with the king of Borgu, but the French hold that such a treaty is null and void, from the fact that France has effectively occupied Dahomey and is therefore entitled to its Hinterland, in accordance with the spirit and the letter of the treaty of Berlin.

PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS.

Argentine Republic Being Completely Stripped of Verdure.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 8.—While the committee appointed by the congress of the Argentine Republic to take evidence concerning ways and means of exterminating the locusts, is holding two meetings weekly, the plague of these destructive insects is increasing and attaining immense proportions in a portion of the Argentine Republic is free from their ravages. The parks have not only been stripped of grass and flowers, but giant trees have actually been denuded of their branches.

The agricultural communities are in a state of semi-panic, and even commercial trade and speculation has been affected. In some districts they are less destructive than in others. All known means of extermination have been employed by the colonists, and while some have been fairly successful, in others, they have seemed only to increase the evil.

There has been received here a copy of a dispatch to the British government from Sir W. J. Sendell, high commissioner of the British government in Cyprus, where there is an annual plague of locusts, and in which he takes the ground that the only sure method of extermination is the gathering and destruction by fire of the eggs of the insects. The dispatch also shows that in the past six years the British government has expended nearly $200,000 in bounties for locust eggs on that island, with the result that the plagues are yearly diminishing in extent.

MOSLEMS IN ASIA

Are Ready for an Uprising in Russian Territory.

St. Petersburg, Dec. 10.—Throughout Russian Asia there is general unrest among the Moslems. It is attributed to the exaggerated reports of the Turkish victory over the "Great Greek empire" which have spread through the length and breadth of the continent. The danger is so serious that a conference of Caucasian governors has been convoked to concert measures of pacification. Travelers in Central Asia report an extraordinary ferment among the Moslems of different races. They are sinking their mutual animosities and declaring that they are first of all Mohammedans with the Sultan as their common chief.

It is evident that the slightest pretext would suffice to bring about an uprising and plunge Russia into the same state of troubles as India.

SUSPICIONS OF RUSSIA.

Germany is Expecting Trouble With Her Neighbor.

Berlin, Dec. 11.—That Germany anticipates trouble at no distant date with Russia is manifest from the orders that have just been issued by the war department here for the immediate rearmament of all the forts along the Russian frontier line. At present the ordnance with which they are equipped dates from prior to 1885, and it is intended to supersede the heavy guns with pieces of the most recent design. It is needless to add that the expense entailed will be enormous, and render people still more reluctant to vote the money asked by the Kaiser for the navy. On this account, if there were no other, it may be regarded as certain that the emperor would not have resolved upon the immediate rearmament of the forts along the eastern frontier unless he was convinced that it was a matter of extreme urgency.

OUR INDUSTRIES ADVANCE.

Germans Alarmed at Advances Made by Americans.

Berlin, Dec. 10.—In the reichstag during the debate on the naval bill, Herr Hammacher, national liberal, said: "The most important thing is the policy of England and the United States. England's policy is evidently directed toward the formation of a zollverein, with her colonies. The United States also undoubtedly wish to protect themselves against our exports, but matters are coming to such a pass that other American republics are joining the United States in order to form a zollverein.

"Pan-Americanism is for Germany still more momentous than Monroeism. The United States are not to be considered on the same footing as a single European state, but rather as an entire continent with regard to producing; and my opinion, which is shared by eminent statesmen, and has also been expressed recently by Count Goluchowski, is that European states will in the coming century be obliged to co-operate in order to support each other in this struggle for existence with America. Germany alone would be powerless in the conflict; but we must take care that when the hour comes she is in a position to take her part."

Large Force in the Soudan.

London, Dec. 11.—According to a dispatch to the Daily Mail from Cairo, 600 British troops will take part in the advance of the Anglo-Egyptian expedition in the Soudan, that was postponed after the capture of Berber last September in order to avoid the hot season.

British Bayonets to Be Sharpened.

Dublin, Dec. 10.—The Evening Telegraph says the war office has sent an order to Dublin for the sharpening of all sword bayonets in the possession of the regular troops in Ireland. The order is unprecedented and a perfect mystery to both officers and men.

Britain and France in Africa.

London, Dec. 8.—The St. James Gazette this afternoon announces authoritatively that the British government does not expect any further trouble with France regarding the Upper Nile regions France having agreed to accept the situation.

A SOCIAL QUEEN.

What the Woman Reporter Learned in Answer to Personal Questions.

"Who would ever believe that she is the mother of five children." These were the words that caught the ear of the Woman Reporter as she moved among the throng at a fashionable reception. Just before her stood the hostess, a young-looking, handsome woman receiving her guests with that air of hearty vivacious enjoyment which all the world considers as the special prerogative of youth.

There was sparkle in her eyes, a soft clear natural color in her cheeks; she had a firm and rounded form, and that steady easy poise of the whole body which betokens strong limbs and healthy nerves.

It was the Reporter's business to be curious; moreover, she was a woman; and receiving gracious permission to call on the following day, she duly presented herself armed with a hundred such questions as only a woman can ask.

"Yes, I have five children," said the hostess, with a tone of earnest, happy pride; "and hope I'll have five more. I love every one of them. They are good children, too, and a comfort to me all the time."

"You can't understand it, of course, and my friends wonder that I keep my health and strength and the way we do. But I take care of myself, that is the reason. I was raised to be so strong. I was thoughtless and careless. After my first baby came I was all broken down and prayed that I might never have another, but I have learned better and am stronger now than I ever was in my life."

"Women break down because they go without the little extra help they need to tide them over hard places. When a woman expects to become a mother she ought to be at her very best. But that is exactly the time when most women feel weak and sick and miserable. They grow melancholy and anxious as the time approaches and wonder why they have no strength or stamina of body or mind to go through the ordeal."

"No wonder they suffer and nearly die sometimes, and are all broken down for months or years. If they would take the right care of themselves and strengthen themselves in a natural way, they would never suffer as they do; and instead of dreading to have children they would welcome them as a real blessing."

"It is simply a case of a "stitch in time saves nine," or rather nine hundred. A little natural reinforcement at the time when baby is expected will save months, perhaps years of suffering and weakness. As well as a time I always take Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription; it invariably gives me the extra strength and healthy nerve-power which a woman needs to bring her baby into the world safely and comfortably."

"It is the most wonderful thing in the world to build up a woman's nervous system and strengthen the special organism of motherhood. It gives you the recuperative power that a woman cannot get in any other way. It carries you through the nursing time beautifully; it helps you to nourish the baby and make him hearty and strong too. My four younger children are the sturd

WASHINGTON.

OUR REVENUES.

Dingley Law Receipts Compared With Other Years.

Washington, Dec. 8.—Assistant Secretary Howell, of the treasury department, has written the following letter in answer to an inquiry concerning the receipts and expenditures of the government:

"In reply to your inquiry concerning the excess of expenditures over receipts during the present fiscal year, I have to advise you that the actual receipts from customs during the four months that the act of 1897 has been in operation, namely, August, September, October and November, amounted to $34,474,322. As is well known the importations during the past four months have not been normal, owing to the large importations in anticipation of the passage of the present tariff.

"Had the importations been as large during the period stated as they were for the same period of 1892, the revenue which would have received under the rates of the present law, would amount to $102,710,000, or $68,236,278 more than the actual receipts. It may be urged, however, that this is not a fair comparison, as the year 1892 was a very prosperous year, and the importations were accordingly larger than the average. Taking, therefore, the year 1896, when business and notably our foreign trade was suffering from depression. Had the importations during the past four months been as large as they were during the same four months of 1896, the receipts under the present law would have amounted to $57,072,283, or $22,597,961 in excess of the actual receipts. Taking the average of the importations for the same four months of 1892 and 1896 and applying the rates of the act of 1897, the estimated receipts amount to $79,574,152, or an increase of $35,099,830 over the actual receipts.

The total excess of expenditures over receipts during the four months of 1897 above named amounted to $35,084,177.23. It will be seen, therefore, that had the importations been as large during the past four months as the average of the importations for the corresponding period of 1892 and 1896, the receipts would have been $15,053 in excess of expenditures, and had the importations been as large as they were in 1892, the receipts would have exceeded the expenditures by $22,250,254.

"Your attention is also called to the fact that the collections under the present law show a gradual increase each month as follows: August, 1897, $6,987,702.34; September, $8,943,100.28; October, $9,173,494.63; November, $9,-830,025.

PENSION APPROPRIATION.

Passed by the House Without Any Amendment.

Washington, Dec. 11.—The house yesterday passed the pension appropriation bill without amendment, and adjourned till Monday. The amendments offered by Democrats to correct alleged existing abuses were all ruled out on the point of order, that they were new legislation. As passed, the bill carried $141,263,880. The debate covered a wide range. It touched not only the question of our pension policy, but that of civil service reform, and the receipts and expenditures of the treasury under the Dingley law.

On the latter question, Mr. Dingley made an important statement in which he expressed the opinion that the receipts would equal the expenditures before the close of the present fiscal year, and predicted a surplus of $10,000,000 next year.

The civil service law was savagely attacked by several members, notably by Mr. Brown, Rep., Ohio, and was warmly seconded by Johnson, Indiana.

Just before the close of the session, Mr. Hitt, chairman of the foreign affairs committee, attempted to secure unanimous consent for the passage of the bill to prohibit pelagic sealing by American citizens, but objection was made. It will, under agreement, however, be considered Monday.

CURRENCY REFORM

Will Soon Come Before Congressional Committees.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The House committee on banking and currency which will have the shaping of a considerable portion of the financial legislation before the House held its first meeting this morning and outlined its general plan of action. In view of Secretary Gage's recommendation of a comprehensive revision of currency and banking affairs a resolution was adopted inviting the secretary to embody his views in a bill. The committee was informed that the secretary was now at work on a measure and that it would be available for the committee in about a week.

Mr. Hill, of Connecticut, then precipitated a sharp debate by moving that the committee act at once by reporting to the House a bill embodying three of the financial features which had the President's approvals. These were embodied in a bill heretofore offered by Mr. Brosius, of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Hill now proposed that the first three sections be placed before the House immediately.

The three sections provided: Bank circulation up to the par value of bonds deposited; reduction of the tax on circulation to one-fourth of one per cent; the establishment of small banks in rural communities. Mr. Hill said the committee would do well not to go through the tedious processes of considering and dividing on these three propositions which appeared to meet with general acceptance, and had received executive approval.

Mr. Johnson, of Indiana, earnestly opposed such hasty action. He said there should be time to hear from the gentlemen forming the monetary commission and to weigh all propositions. Precipitate action on such a vital subject would, he said, seriously prejudice it before the House and the country.

Mr. Mitchell, of New York, also opposed such speedy action. The debate was proceeding with animation when at 12 o'clock the meeting went over the vote on the Hill motion not having been reached.

LIQUOR AND TOBACCO.

Some Figures for People Who Like Such Things.

Washington, Dec. 10.—The number of licensed saloonkeepers in the United States was reduced 10,340 during the last year. In 1896 the total was 216,358, in 1897, 206,018. Of the latter 11,074 are licensed to sell malt liquors only. There is no state or territory without its saloons—even Alaska has 147 and six breweries. Prohibition Maine has 995, Kansas 2,269 and Iowa 3,789. Indian territory has only 13, the smallest number. New York, of course, leads off, and the other states follow in the following order: New York, 32,990; Illinois, 17,-359; Ohio, 14,849; Pennsylvania, 14,519; California 12,767. There are comparatively few saloons in the south. Alabama has 8506, Arkansas, 6979, Mississippi, 3226; South Carolina, 3222. Georgia has 1,310, only 256 more than the District of Columbia, 400 less than Montana and 428 less than Rhode Island. Arkansas, Indian territory, Maine, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma and Vermont are without breweries.

If the population of the United States is 70,000,000, it probably includes about 20,000,000 of the male gender who have reached the smoking age. On that basis of computation the average consumption of cigars during the last year was 200 per capita, for the total number sold in this country was 4,063,169,697. But as not more than half the men smoke cigars the actual average consumption was probably double that number. The quantity of imported cigars used in the United States is very much overestimated. Last year it was only 35,560,362, or about 3½ for each number of the smoking population.

There has been a comparatively small increase in the consumption of cigars. There was a decrease of 172,781,705 last year from 1896, and the increase from 1887 has been less than 400,000,000. But this is accounted for by an enormous increase in the use of cigarettes, which has doubled almost twice in the last ten years. The total for 1887 was 1,825,-287,082, which in 1897 jumped to 5,046,-208,770, which will make the average about 500 a year per capita of the smoking population.

There has been a very large increase in the consumption of snuff—a habit which people in polite society generally suppose is obsolete. The total used in 1887 was 8,168,609 pounds. In 1897 it reached 13,208,040 pounds. The increase in tobacco has not been so rapid. The total in 1887 was 218,184,877, and in 1897, 269,734,812 pounds. Of this 153,297,997 was plug, 11,761,699 was fine cut and 83,458,984 pounds was smoking tobacco.

The commissioner of internal revenue reports that there are no manufacturers of opium in the United States so far as he has been able to discover, so that no revenue is derived from that article.

The tax on playing cards produced a revenue of $251,306 last year.

TOO MUCH RED TAPE

Required in the Administration of a Defunct Bank.

Washington, Dec. 11.—One of the curiosities of governmental red tape is exhibited in the report of the commissioner of the defunct Freedmen's Bank. This office is now vested by law in the controller of the currency, who receives an additional salary of $1,000 a year for administering the trust. When the Freedmen's Bank failed in 1874 there were 61,131 depositors, to whom there was due $2,959,925. Between that time and May 12, 1883, dividends amounting to 62 per cent were declared.

Depositors of the bank were largely ignorant colored people, who were scattered all over the South. In many cases they claimed their first dividend of 20 per cent, but evidently thought that was all they would get. With each dividend the number of claimants decreased, so that there were about 9,000 less at the end of the eight years.

In order to hurry up the depositors, Congress passed a law in 1881 barring out all claims which were not presented at a specified date. These amounted to $184,494. Of these some few claims amounting to $17,481 were revived in 1883, but even of these two-thirds were never called for. The result is that the balance in the fund unexpended now amounts to the sum of $31,594.

The curious thing about the report is the fact that while few if any payments are being made, the expenses are gradually eating up the fund. Controller Eckels report shows that the expenses of the year amounted to $2,528. Of this sum his salary footed up $1,000. The agents and office expenses took up $1,500 more, while $25 was used in copying, printing and binding the annual report. The actual money paid out was for one dividend, calling for the pitiful sum of $2.96.

It will thus be seen that it cost over $2,500 to pay the claim of one poor colored man for a deferred dividend of $2.96 on a bank which failed in 1874.

The enormous expense of winking care of this fund, which no one claims, has been called to the attention of Congress again by Controller Eckels report and there is a possibility that the fund may be turned into the treasury and the extra compensation of $1,000 cut off from the next controller of the currency.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY.

The Idea Originated With George Washington.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The bill to establish the university of the United States will again be introduced in both houses of Congress.

The bill in general terms provides for an institution of the highest possible type, for the graduates of accredited colleges and universities only, with special reference to the work of original research and investigation in all important fields of inquiry. The government is vested in a board of regents and a university council. The board of regents embraces the President of the United States, the chief justice of the United States, the commissioner of education, the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the president National Academy of Sciences; the president of the university, and nine other citizens to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, no two shall be from the same state. The university council is to have immediate charge of the work of instruction, research and investigation. It consists of the regents and twelve other members, to be appointed by them from among eminent educators, with a like impartial distribution. All courses and officers of instruction are to be determined by the council, also all questions involving the original management of the institutions. Neither sectarian nor political preferences in any form are to be allowed, whether in the appointments or in any of the departments of the institutions.

The present bill is the outgrowth of more than a hundred years of agitation. The thought of a national university first came to President Washington while commanding the revolutionary army. Subsequently, as President, he repeatedly urged its establishment, and in his last will and testament left $25,000 in stocks as a first endowment, the interest to be compounded. Had Congress fostered the plan, this sum would now be nearly $5,-000,000. The idea thus cherished by Washington is also endorsed by President John Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, John Quincy Adams, Jackson, Grant and Hayes. During all this time the measure was advocated by men the most distinguished for learning and statesmanship, but, owing to the lack of organized efforts, nothing practical was accomplished.

HAWAIIAN TREATY.

Small Chance for Favorable Action for Some Time.

Washington, Dec. 9.—It was supposed that the foreign relations committee of the senate would take up the Hawaiian treaty at its meeting yesterday, but it failed to do so, and Senator Davis, chairman of the committee, now says that he cannot fix the time when it will be considered, though it will probably be before the Christmas holidays.

The delay is undoubtedly due to the opposition recently manifested toward the treaty. Of the committee, all six Republicans and two out of the five Democrats are favorable to the treaty, and could at any time report it favorably, but they prefer to let it simmer for a while until they can tell just how matters stand.

At present there seems to be fifty-five votes in favor of the treaty made up of forty-seven Republicans and silver Republicans, being all except Hoar and Pettigrew; five Democrats—Morgan, Gorman, Turpie, Roach and Rawlins, and three Populists—Heitfield, Kyle and Turner. Opposed are two Republicans—Hoar and Pettigrew—two Populists—Allen and Harris—and fifteen Democrats; doubtful are fifteen Democrats. Sixty votes are necessary for passage.

The Royal is the highest grade baking powder known. Actual tests show it goes one-third further than any other brand.

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SENATE RESTAURANT.

Senators Can Absorb Only Wine and Beer Hereafter.

Washington, Dec. 8.—It will be impossible, if the rule put in force to-day is rigidly observed, for a person to get a drink of whisky at the Senate restaurant hereafter. Yesterday the committee on rules decided to permit the sale of only wine and beer. An embargo was thus placed on corn and prune juice, gin fizzes, coffee, and other kinds of cocktails, creme de menthes, and all other picturesque concoctions whose principal properties are to make statesmen wonder where they are at.

During the recess of Congress the sale of all liquors in the Senate restaurant was prohibited, but the rule has been modified as described. The reason ascribed to limiting the dispensation to wine and beer is that the danger of acquiring a Senatorial jag will be reduced to a minimum on account of the inability of those bibulously-inclined to do much mixing of drinks. It is said that it is quite inducive to loss of mental and physical equilibrium to switch from one kind of liquor to another.

FIGHT ON CIVIL SERVICE.

Republicans and Democrats Do Not Agree.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The outlook for changing the civil service law is being actively canvassed among Republican members of the house as a result of the conference held Saturday night. The members of the special committee having the matter in charge are trying to so shape a bill that it will command the support of a number of divergent elements. One of these is the Democratic minority which, combined with the Republicans opposed to the present law would be strong enough to carry a bill. But in canvassing the situation it has been found that Democratic members would favor a complete repeal of the law but would oppose anything short of a repeal.

As the Republican movement is not toward complete repeal but rather for modification of the law there appears to be no basis by which the anti-civil service reformers of both parties can unite. It is claimed, however, that a modification bill will receive the votes of two-thirds of the Republican members and will have a good chance of passing the senate and receiving the President's signature.

NEW DEPARTMENT.

Commerce and Industries Will Be Subject of a Special Message.

Chicago, Dec. 14.—Officers of the Chicago Business League have received word from Washington that President McKinley will make the proposed department of commerce and industries the subject of a special message to Congress immediately after the holidays. A delegation of local citizens interested in the new cabinet department will go to the capital to have the bill introduced in Congress. Many letters from Senators and Representatives at Washington have been received by the secretary of the Chicago Business League in which the writers all agree to support the bill and appeals to commercial bodies all over the country to instruct their representatives to vote in favor of the bill have met with greater success than looked for.

An effort will, it is said, be made by delegates from this city to the convention of the American Federation of Labor at Nashville to commit that body in favor of the new department.

AGAINST BRIBERY.

Radical Measure Introduced by Maxwell, of Nebraska.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Representative Maxwell, of Nebraska, introduced a bill to punish the bribery, coercion or intimidation of voters. It provides that any one who shall by bribery attempt to influence any election in giving his vote or ballot at any election held pursuant to the laws of the United States shall on conviction be imprisoned in the penitentiary not over one year, and be fined $1,000.

The person bribed is declared to be a competent witness and not liable to prosecution. The bill also provides imprisonment of not more than one year for any creditor, master, employer, overseer or agent who attempts to coerce or intimidate any electors, debtors or other person under their authority to vote contrary to their inclination or deter him from voting.

MONEY ORDERS FOUND.

Strange Explanation of the Shortage of Librarian Spofford.

Washington, Dec. 10.—It will be remembered that an investigation by the Treasury Department about a year ago showed former librarian, A. R. Spofford, to be about $30,000 short in his accounts. Now it appears that a large part, if not all of this deficit which Mr. Spofford promptly made good out of his own pocket, will be accounted for by a great batch of old money orders which the absent-minded librarian forgot to cash.

Librarian J. Russell Young and First Assistant Postmaster General Heath have made a systematic search of the old library records, and have unearthed hundreds of old orders which the former librarian had put aside and apparently forgotten and more are coming to light every day. Some of the orders date back 22 years.

AFTER INDIAN TRIBES.

Secretary Gage Changes the Plan for Designating Cruisers.

Washington, Dec. 10.—Secretary Gage has adopted a plan for naming new vessels of the revenue cutter service. The old system of naming vessels was to call them after secretaries, sometime senators or members of the house, and sometimes clerks. Hereafter, however, these vessels will receive the names of tribes of Indians. The cutter launched at Cleveland yesterday has been named the Algonquin, and another will be called the Onondaga. It is not unlikely that the names of the old cutters, Smith and Sperry, will be changed in conformity with the new plan.

TO STOP PELAGIC SEALING.

Purpose of a Bill From Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The Senate committee on foreign relations to-day authorized a favorable report upon a bill prohibiting pelagic sealing by the people of the United States. The bill is a joint production of the State and Treasury departments and its passage is asked upon the ground that, with such a law upon the statute books of this country, the administration will be in better position than at present to ask that other governments prohibit pelagic sealing. The bill received the affirmative votes of all the Senators present, but its provisions were discussed at considerable length.

HOLIDAY RECESS.

Congress Will Rest for About Two Weeks.

Washington, Dec. 9.—The indications are that the holiday recess of Congress will extend from Saturday, December 18, to Monday or Tuesday, January 3 or 4. Speaker Reed is understood to favor these dates. If, however, any important business develops in the Senate or House the recess will probably be postponed into Christmas week. So far as the House is concerned no general legislation will be ready for consideration before the holidays and work is likely to be confined to the appropriation bills.

Great Drop in Drugs.

Dear Editor. We are selling almost every known drug and remedy, every known instrument and appliance, at lowest wholesale prices. Some remedies others sell as high as $1.00 to $2.00, our price is 25 cents. Our special Drug Catalogue will be sent free postpaid to any of your readers who will cut this notice out and send to us. Very truly.

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DYSPEPSIA.

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Bankruptcy Bill.

Washington, Dec. 14.—A national bankruptcy bill similar in its substantial features to the Henderson-Culbertson bill passed by the House last session, will be reported to the House this week by the judiciary committee. The bill provides for both voluntary bankruptcy and involuntary bankruptcy. By its provisions any one may file a petition and go into voluntary bankruptcy, except a corporation. The latter may be forced into it but not otherwise. Wage-earners, laborers and farmers cannot be forced into it. All others are subject to involuntary bankruptcy for certain designated causes. In general these involuntary causes relate to fraudulent conduct on the part of the bankrupt.

Sec. Gage Asks for a Bicycle Shed.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Secretary Gage transmitted to the House to-day an estimate of $2,000 from the secretary of state for the construction of fireproof bicycle sheds in the courts of the state, war and navy buildings. This will particularly appeal to Chairman Cannon, of the committee on appropriations, who is an enthusiastic wheelman, and it is supposed the purse strings of the government will be sufficiently loosened to permit of this being done.

Widows' Pensions.

Washington, Dec. 9.—Senator Gallinger introduced a bill prohibiting the granting of pensions to the widows of soldiers whose marriage occurred subsequent to the passage of the bill under which she makes claim.

BLUE LAWS.

Unique Method Adopted to Control Saloons in Andale, Kansas.

Wichita, Kas., Dec. 8.—The little town of Andale, in Sedgwick county, which has a population of about 300, has no regular city government, but Justice Hine has promulgated a unique series of home-made laws for the government of the three joint keepers who are doing business there. The population of Andale is made up largely of German-Catholics, who are not very radical prohibitionists, but, as the code of laws indicates, they do not propose to have the joints open while mass is being celebrated. Following are the "laws:"

All joints or saloons must be governed by these rules:

1. All joints or saloons must keep off the main streets and must be kept decent.

2. They must not sell liquor to habitual drunkards nor to minors unless accompanied by their parents.

3. All joints or saloons must close at 10 o'clock at night except on Sunday.

4. No joint must be kept open during mass from 9 o'clock a. m. to 10 a. m., and must close during evening mass.

5. No joint or saloon can sell liquor to habitual drunkards when their wives object to the same, nor to minors.

6. Any joint or saloon-keeper violating any of these rules will be prosecuted to the full extent of the prohibitory liquor law.

7. When any of the joints or saloons violate these rules it shall be the duty of the signers hereto to swear out a warrant for the county attorney and help to prosecute them to conviction.

These laws are closely followed, and in consequence there is but little trouble.

JAPAN SHORT OF COAL.

Supply Cannot Last Fifty Years—Already Restricted.

Tacoma, Wash., Dec. 14.—Capt. McGregor of the British steamship Glenlocy, which has just arrived from Japan, reports that coal experts who have been making investigations of Japan's coal supply declare that it cannot last fifty years longer. This is causing much uneasiness and has resulted in increased importations from Australia. Capt. McGregor reports that coal prices in Japanese ports have advanced 40 per cent in eight months, and that restrictions have been placed upon its sale to foreign steamers. He wanted to load 1,200 tons on last him to Europe, but obtained only enough for the voyage to Tacoma. China has coal mines, but the officials will not yet permit their development.

GRAIN GOING ABROAD.

Some Heavy Shipments Out of the Port of Boston.

Boston, Dec. 14.—The Transcript yesterday said: Heavy grain shipments are being made from this port, and will probably exceed two million of bushels a month from now on. Some big grain deals have been made lately, and steamers will have about all they can handle. Space has been engaged for forwarding to Liverpool 1,500,000 bushels of heavy grain and oats during January and February, and a prominent grain broker has been making overtures to the steamship lines for 1,000,000 bushels, but he could not secure the desired terms. It is learned that the tonnage from St. John and Portland is booked far into next year.

SEVENTEEN CITIES.

Nearly All Carried by Republicans in Massachusetts.

Boston, Dec. 8.—Seventeen of the 32 cities of the commonwealth held their municipal elections yesterday. In a majority of cases the Republicans were successful in electing their mayor and securing control of the city government, although the result is that the idea of independent or non-partisan control of municipalities is steadily growing in favor.

Seven of the 17 mayors chosen won upon other than straight party nominations, although nearly all had party endorsements. Six mayors were re-elected.

On the license question the contest was closely fought but the advocates of no license lost much ground and strength.

BENEFIT OF INSPECTION.

Large Quantities of Bad Tea Have Been Kept Out.

New York, Dec. 13.—The new tea law of March 2, 1897, went into effect on May 1, 1897. A comparison of the operation of the old and new law is of interest. It will be remembered that this tea law is in the interest of the purity of the merchandise imported and as a reason of the new law, it was claimed that the law which was in force prior to 1897 was ineffective. This would appear to true considering the operation of the new law at the port of New York as given out by the United States appraiser Saturday which, as compared with the old law, has been as follows:

The number of cases rejected from March 1, 1896 to December 2, 1897, under act of March 2, 1893, was only 750 packages of tea. For the same period this year, 18,259; during the same period of 1896, 683,647 packages were imported and in 1897, 501,517.

Spreckels Will Raise Sugar Beets.

San Francisco, Dec. 9.—The King ranch in Monterey county has been purchased by the Spreckels Sugar company. The price paid is said to have been $300,000. The land will be devoted to the cultivation of sugar beets for the supply of the new factory at Salinas.

KLONDIKE GOLD.

Only an Elusive Rainbow for Many.

Dawson City, Northwest Territory, Oct. 17, via Seattle, Dec. 8.—Nine out of ten of the men who have come to the Yukon in the rush, now wish they were back home. They have learned that there are no mines for them and that wages at $10 a day are a myth.

It should be borne in mind by all who think of coming here that, with all the hundreds of experienced men during the last seven years only one discovery has been made of ground that will, under present conditions, pay large profits, and that is on Bonanza and its tributary, Eldorado creek.

None who comes here now may hope to obtain mines on these creeks, except at exorbitant prices. There have been many stampedes for years along the Yukon upon the reports of rich discoveries, and all who have joined in these rushes have been disappointed with the exception of those who came to Klondike.

Chasing Mythical Fortunes.

There has been a rush to Munook creek and locations are selling there for as much as $5,000 each. This is all based on the fact that one man found a good prospect at the bottom of a shaft last spring, and the further fact that food is more accessible there than elsewhere.

It is possible that Munook will turn out to be another Eldorado, but no more probable than that Coal Creek, Mission Creek, American, Nation, Henderson, or a dozen others will turn out rich. The chances of finding another creek as rich as Eldorado are very small.

There is nothing left for those who are now coming or are here and waiting for some one to start a stampede to do but go out prospecting or work for wages.

Crowds Still Pouring In.

There are coming into Dawson from up the river daily from 20 to 40 men in small boats. It is said by those who have come in last that there are at least 1,000 men on the road, who have crossed the passes and will winter in the trails and come in early in the spring. From all indications this is a low estimate. In other words, there are here or near here, and to come as soon as roads open, 4,000 men and there are mines in the district for 1,000. The other 6,000 can only hope to work for wages or go long distances from here to prospect.

Of all the mines located not more than 250 have proved to be of value under present conditions and of these many will not be worked full-handed until wages are still further reduced. So far as can be learned from the mine owners themselves about 1,000 men will be employed in the mines if wages are $1 an hour. Then as many more will work on lays. In addition to these, not more than 1,000 will work on their own claims, prospecting, developing or mining them, making in all about 3,000 men employed in the mines. Yet it is probable that not so many will have supplies of provisions to last them until spring. Of the rest of the population of the district, 1,500 or more will be idle unless they move out and prospect. When the winter work is over there will be employment for far fewer men in summer at sluice mining, and with those coming, there will be but a small proportion of the men here employed unless new mines are discovered.

All this does not offer much encouragement to those coming here. Yet the Yukon country has been heralded to the world as one of the greatest of mining districts. It certainly is, but the bulk of its yield of bullion will come from mines that to-day and under present conditions can not be worked at a profit. The high prices, scarcity of the necessities of life and the difficulties of travel and transportation make it impossible for poor or men of small means to work any but exceedingly rich claims.

BACK FROM KLONDIKE.

Three Thousand Men Are Coming Out Over the Trails.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 9.—Actual starvation must have come to Dawson, for an Indian has brought word that 3,-000 men are coming out over the trails from the Klondike. The Indian brought the news to Haines' Mission over the Dalton trail, whence it was carried to Juneau.

The supposition is that a safety committee has compelled the men without sufficient supplies to leave the place. The Indian stated that two steamers had come up the river since the Weare and Bella landed about the middle of October, and none could come, for the Yukon and all the streams are frozen tight.

For the fugitives, however, it will be better than if the river was half open, for they would have the flush ice and soft snow to struggle against, while now a quick trip can be made over the hard surface.

BIGGEST IN THE WORLD.

Claim Made for the Gaylord Potato Market.

Gaylord, Mich., Dec. 8.—C. J. Ferrin, president of the American Brokerage Co., of New York, is authority for the statement that Buck & Bolton, of Gaylord, are the largest holders of potatoes of any single firm in the world. They have on hand at present 85,000 bushels, and will buy close to 300,000 bushels during the season. They are shipping to the Eastern and Southern markets as high as two trains a week.

SUN SPOTS.

Interesting Objects of Study for Astronomers.

Geneva, N. Y., Dec. 13.—Prof. Wm. R. Brooks, of Smith Observatory, reports the observation of a great group of sun spots approaching the center of the suns disc. The group is visible to the naked eye through smoked glass and may be well defined with small telescopes Measurements made by Prof. Brooks show this vast solar disturbance to be 100,000 miles in length.

Noted Missionary Very Ill.

Philadelphia, Dec. 13.—Cable messages received here are to the effect that Rev. Dr. Day, D. D., one of the best known missionaries of the Lutheran synod of the United States left the Royal hospital at Liverpool Saturday in a very critical condition and sailed for New York in care of his wife. Dr. Day has been at Muhlenberg, Liberia, for 23 years and has achieved marked success in his missionary work there.

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TO THE SOUTH POLE.

Change of Plans by the Belgian Antarctic Expedition.

New York, Dec. 9.—The Brooklyn Standard Union to-day publishes a private letter from Surgeon Frederick A. Cook, the only American member of Capt. Adrian De Gerlachs' Belgian Antarctic expedition, announcing that the plan of the winter's cruise has been considerably changed. The expedition after coaling at Punta Arenas in the Straits of Magellan, will go to Grahamsland, thence to Alexanderland, thence to Victorialand, where a party will be landed for the winter.

The original plan of the expedition was to wait until the winter of 1898 before affecting a landing.

Markets and Crops.

THE TRADE REPORTS.

Opening of Congress Has Not Discouraged Business.

New York, Dec. 11.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says:

The opening of congress with the annual message and reports has not discouraged business, as some predicted, but all speculative markets are stronger than a week ago. The productive industries, even in the season usually about the dullest of the year as to new orders, meet a definite improvement in demand for import products presumably the fruit of a prevailing conviction that new business will begin to crowd the works after the new year starts. The outward movement of wheat and other products continues so heavy that foreign exchange has fallen three-quarters of a cent, and instead of exports of gold, which have marked December in recent years, imports would come if gold were wanted. Securities are advancing with reason in the increased earnings of railways, $47,-085,801 for November, on reporting roads in the United States 16.8 per cent larger than last year, and 5.9 larger than in 1892. A strict comparison for five years shows that in each of the last three months earnings have been greater than in any previous year, with a larger increase in November than in October or September.

Cotton is a sixteenth stronger in spite of estimates ranging from 10,100,000 to 11,000,000 bales. A strike in English mills is no longer threatened, and the possibility of one at Fall River has little weight.

The demand for woolen goods has clearly improved and more wool had just been purchased abroad, and is being imported, the sales in domestic markets having been for the past week only 2,-000,000 pounds at Boston, and in two weeks 11,050,400 pounds at the three markets. While some grades have been sold largely at prices lower than a month ago, quotations are generally maintained.

There is more demand for iron and steel products in preparation for railroad work, bridges and buildings next year, and on contracts for export. The formation of the American Steel and Wire company is expected to strengthen prices and causes some buying. While Bessemer at $10 and grey forge at $9.15 are slightly lower at Pittsburg, prices are stronger at Chicago, and in all quarters heavy business is expected after the new year. A sale of lake copper, said to be ten million pounds, at 11 cents, so strengthens the demand that 10.87 is bid, but tin and lead are very dull, and spelter a shade lower, while future contracts for tin plates have been made at $2.90 per 100 pounds.

Failures for the first week of December were but $7,617,240; manufacturing, $739,420, and trading, $1,781,570.

Failures for the week have been 312 in the United States against 380 last year, and 29 in Canada against 43 last year.

COTTON CROP.

Estimates for the Year—Crop is Moving Rapidly.

New York, Dec. 8.—Latham Alexander & Co. estimate the cotton crop of the United States for the year 1897-98 as follows: Alabama, 1,100,000 bales; Arkansas, 852,000 bales; Florida, 66,000 bales; Georgia, 1,430,000 bales; Louisiana, 703,-000 bales; Mississippi, 1,379,000 bales; North Carolina, 534,000 bales; South Carolina, 875,000 bales; Tennessee, etc., 330,-000 bales; Texas and Indian Territory, 2,785,000 bales; total, $10,188,000 bales. They say:

"Although the crop was planted late, the drought forced cotton to early maturity, and our correspondents say up to this date the crop has been marketed rapidly. In our opinion, the movement henceforth will not prove to be in excess of the movement of a normal cotton year. For a time quarantine restrictions in a portion of the South retarded shipments, but to a much smaller extent than was generally supposed."

WHEAT CROP OF 1897.

Government Figures as Result of Investigation.

Washington, Dec. 13.—The agricultural department to-day issued the following: The special wheat investigation instituted by the department of agriculture indicates a crop of five hundred and thirty million bushels. These figures are subject to slight modification in the final report.

Signed, JOHN HYDE,
Statistician of the agricultural department.

REVIEW OF WEEK'S BUSINESS.

OFFICE OF THE TOLEDO BLADE,
Toledo, O., Dec. 14, 1897.

The following shows changes in government bonds during the past week:

	Dec. 14.	Dec. 7.
U. S. 4's (new) coupons	129½	128¾
U. S. 4's (new) registered	129½	128¾
U. S. 5's coupons	114¾	114¾
U. S. 5's registered	114¾	114¾
U. S. 4's coupons	114	114
U. S. 4's registered	113	112¾
U. S. 2's registered	99½	99
Pacific 6's of '98	102¾	102¾

Condition of the Grain Market at the Close To-Day.

Wheat opened a trifle lower for May to-day on heavy receipts in the Northwest. Reports of damage to wheat in Argentina by rains and bad Illinois crop report strengthened the market some after the opening. Afterward, on cable giving large increase in wheat and corn in France, prices eased. Some strength was imparted to the markets by shorts buying on account of Liverpool not declining as was anticipated by the majority of the dealers previous yesterday. At Chicago December wheat advanced 2½c from opening figures, but at noon was weak at a decline of ½c under opening figures. May wheat advanced 3½c, but afterward eased off. It is believed by many that the December future in wheat at Chicago will not pan out as the clique anticipated—that every pound of wheat will be delivered to the longs. There was but little done in December wheat, for the fact is the dealers pay but little attention to it as an index of the course of trade upon which dealing may be done intelligently. When December goes up the down it does not show that wheat is bringing its actual value. To give a proper estimate upon the transactions in wheat, May must be looked to, as it is influenced by actual conditions as they exist during the day. At the number wheat was off ½c as compared with yesterday's closing, and May was unchanged. At New York May wheat was off ¼c. Trade was dull. Cables closed lower.

Prices of wheat to-day:

Dec.	Opened.	Highest.	Lowest.	Close
Toledo	95	95	94¾	94¾
Chicago	100⅝	103	97⅛	97⅛
New York	97¾	98	96⅞	96⅞
St. Louis	97¾	97¾	97¼	97¼

At Chicago May wheat opened at 91c; high, 91¾c; low, 90¼c; close, 90¾c; July, 82¾c; high, 82¾c; low and close, 82c. At New York May wheat opened at 93¾c; rose to 93⅞c and fell to 92¾c bid. At St. Louis May wheat opened at 93¾c; rose to 93⅞@93¾c; fell to 93c, and closed at 93¾c asked.

This afternoon there was nothing new developed in the wheat markets. The day was a dull one throughout, excepting for May, in which a fair business was done. December wheat at Chicago closed 2c under yesterday's close, and May ½c off. At New York December wheat was ½c lower and May ¾c. At St. Louis, December was unchanged and May ¼c lower.

Lindblom wired Coe: Beerbohm is now out with a statement showing that the world's crop of wheat is 200,000,000 less than the average for the past six years, and 160,-000,000 less than last year. So the proposition is very plain that the shortage of the crop must be reflected in the price to such an extent that substitutes will be used. The contract wheat in Chicago has already reached that point is evident. The old kind of No. 2 spring wheat is selling 12c below contract wheat here, while in Liverpool it commands the same price. California wheat, which is usually above us, now now below us, and winter wheat which last year was 10c above our market, is now below ours in every other market. So when anybody says he is buying No. 1 Mer-wheat in Chicago as a merchants, he makes a very foolish statement, as he will find out when he tries to sell it to merchants.

Puts on May wheat at Chicago at 1.00; 90@90¾; calls, 91¾@91¾c.

Primary receipts of wheat, 1,274,325 bushels; shipments, 325,133. Last year, receipts, 677,000 bushels; shipments, 102,713.

Oats for December at Chicago, 25¾c; high, 25¾c; low and close, 25¾c; May, 28¾c; open and high, 28¾c; low, 28¼c; close, 28¼c.

Pork at Chicago for December, $7.45; January, $8.35; high, $8.40; low, $8.32; close, $8.37.

Lard at Chicago for December, $4.25; January, $4.37; high, $4.42; low, $4.35; close, $4.37.

Corn held up fairly well during the day. Trade slow, with markets ruling a trifle easier at the close. December was off about 1c and May was unchanged, as compared with yesterday. At Chicago December corn opened at 25¾c; high, 25¾c; low and close, 25¾c. May, 28¾c open and high, 28¾c low, and 28¾c close. At New York December corn opened at 31¾c, fell to 31¾c asked, and closed at 31¾c bid; May, 33⅜c bid, rose to 34c, and closed at 33¾c.

Corn Trade News cable says advices are that the Santa Fe crop in Argentina has been seriously damaged by rain. Better cash demand at Liverpool.

The French wheat acreage shows a million acres less than last year.

Paris wheat closed 10@35 centimes lower; flour, 50@80 centimes lower.

Antwerp wheat, 12@2½c lower.

Liverpool wheat closed steady and 1d higher to ½d lower than previous close.

Springfield, Illinois: Reports to the state board of agriculture, December 1, show one of the smallest acreages of winter wheat